Sunday
Los Angeles Times
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Photographs by LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

MARK GREWAL, an agricultural consultant, stands on a flooded road near Corcoran, Calif., where long-dry Tulare Lake is filling up after a stormy winter and inundating thousands of acres.

Tensions high as Tulare Lake reappears on prime farmland

Amid unprecedented storms, agricultural communities grapple with how to deal with swiftly rising floodwaters

By Ian James and Susanne Rust

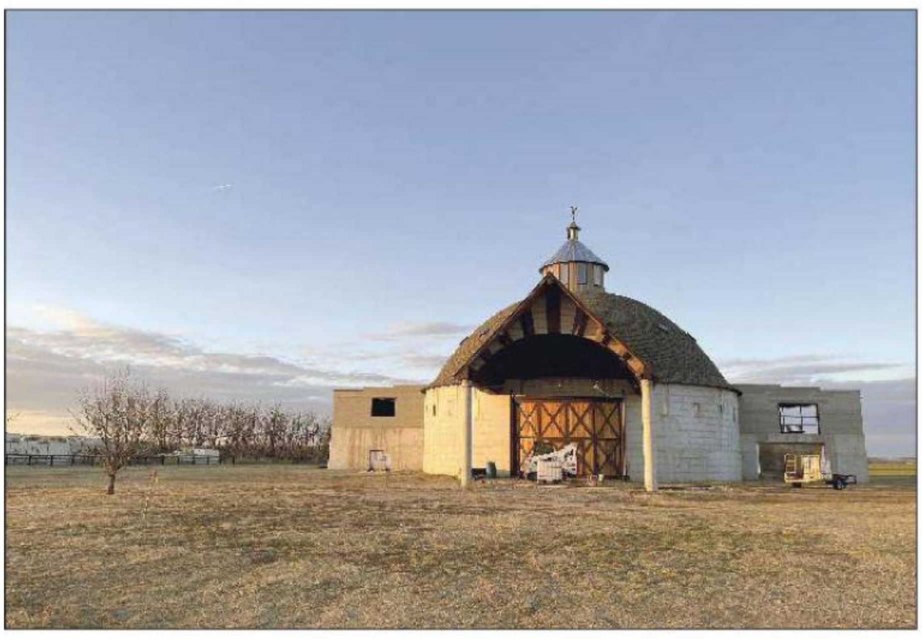
CORCORAN, Calif. — Sixth Avenue used to cut through miles of farmland. Now, the road has disappeared under muddy water, its path marked by sodden telephone poles that protrude from a swelling lake. Water laps just below the windows of a lone farmhouse that sits alongside the submerged route.

Thousands of acres of cropland have been inundated in this heavily farmed swath of the San Joaquin Valley. And the water just keeps rising.

For the first time in decades, Tulare Lake is reappearing in the valley, reclaiming the lowlands at its historic heart. Once the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River, Tulare Lake was largely drained in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as the rivers that fed it were dammed and diverted for agriculture.

[See **Tulare,** A9]

RIVERS THAT dwindled during the drought are swollen with runoff, spilling into fields usually teeming with lucrative crops.



Hailey Branson-Potts Los Angeles Times

JAY BRANSON'S round barn in central Oklahoma stands 72 feet tall and can be seen for miles. Strangers on the nearby highway often come closer to stare.

COLUMN ONE

An eye-catching barn, with grief and hope in the rafters

After losing his wife, builder dived into his dream

By Hailey Branson-Potts
LOGAN COUNTY, OKLA.

A curiosity rises amid the wheat fields along rural Highway 33, which cuts through the town of Guthrie.

It's an immense, circular building — about 15,000 square feet inside — with a domed roof topped by an ornate cupola and a copper eagle. Standing at 72 feet, it is visible for miles on the flat Oklahoma expanse.

Jay Branson is building it in his backyard. He calls it his round barn, but it's more of a prairie cathedral.

He has been working on it for seven years. As he builds, strangers come. They pull off the highway, haul up his long driveway and stare.

Some, overcome by the beauty, have wept upon seeing the inside of the dome, with its ascending rings of interlocking diamonds and octagons that Jay cut by hand from poplar wood.

At the top is an oculus, a round opening in the roof, like in the Pantheon in Rome. When sunlight streams in, the effect is downright heavenly.

[See **Barn,** A12]

Fearing doom if TikTok is banned

Entrepreneurs worry about losing tool that has helped them build a robust clientele and the American dream.

By Jaimie Ding

When Lauren Wyman felt crushed under the weight of her corporate finance job in 2019, she found solace in launching a small goth and alternative clothing business.

She initially made Facebook and Instagram accounts for her shop, Dark Mother Clothing, but generated only $5,000 to $6,000 in sales the first year. Wyman, 32, joined TikTok at the start of the pandemic, launched new products and posted a couple of videos that went viral. In 2022, she grossed $217,000.

"A part of what people have done on this app is created their own slice of the American dream that is preached so much about," said Wyman, who's based in Arizona, "whether it's opening a small business or people who are no longer facing homelessness, people who are able to retire, creators

[See **TikTok,** A14]

Skid row trust's dysfunction and bad bets leave tenants in straits

Residents report broken elevators, other issues as nonprofit collapses from internal dissent, fiscal chaos

By Doug Smith and Benjamin Oreskes

In 2016, hoarding by the tenants of more than two dozen downtown residential buildings had become so pervasive that employees felt it posed a health and safety hazard.

The Skid Row Housing Trust, a nonprofit that owned the buildings, hired a specialist — clinical psychologist Danielle Schlichter. Her job was to set up a training program for graduate students who would help tenants overcome the obsessions that set them up for eviction.

But soon, the trust began falling behind on its payments to Schlichter and eventually stopped them, according to emails attached in a lawsuit. She was forced to stop working even as the problems at the buildings persisted, the emails said.

Schlichter's lawsuit was one of many filed by tenants and creditors, alleging uninhabitable living conditions seeking hundreds of thousands of dollars in unpaid bills. They marked the early signs of management and financial disarray, which festered for years before culminating in the meltdown of an institution that had long stood as a model for housing homeless people.

Earlier this year, the nonprofit's interim chief executive acknowledged that the trust could no longer support its 29 residential buildings — many of them operating in the red — and

[See **Skid row,** A10]

L.A. Care's issues near crisis point, groups tell county

Fearing patients are at risk, hospitals call for action one year since health plan was fined.

By Emily Alpert Reyes

A health insurance plan that serves poor and vulnerable patients in Los Angeles County was slapped with record fines — $55 million in total — last March for what a California state agency described as "widespread, systemic, and unrelenting" failures, including sluggish authorizations for medical care that left patients suffering.

A year later, Southern California hospitals complain that problems have persisted and are reaching a crisis point. The Hospital Assn. of Southern California and other healthcare groups have urged the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to call for changes from L.A. Care, a publicly operated health plan that serves more than 2.8 million people, most of them on Medi-Cal.

What worries medical staff is "that this is putting people at risk," said Dr. Jorge Reyno, senior vice president of population health for MLK Community Healthcare.

Hospital officials have faulted L.A. Care for delays in authorizations that are needed for medical care or to discharge people to other facilities, clogging hospitals with patients who no longer need their beds. The lag time has been exacerbated, they said, by a growing number of providers unwilling to accept L.A. Care patients because the health plan has not paid them promptly.

L.A. Care has defended its performance, calling the letter from hospitals a "blatant mischaracterization of the issues."

It said it "works tirelessly to find places to accept members" when they no longer need a hospital bed and has been taking steps to address such concerns. But it argued that the problems faced by hospitals are rooted in the broader problem of low rates of reimbursement under Medi-Cal.

[See **L.A. Care,** A22]

Drivers 70 and up say in-person test is discrimination

Steve Lopez asks: Are those 30 and younger more dangerous on the road? **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Museum debuts grand expansion

The Hammer goes big with new immersive art installations about connections. **CALENDAR, E1**

Elites play victim amid a 'techlash'

Silicon Valley's movers and shakers are on edge after bailout — as they should be. **BUSINESS, A15**

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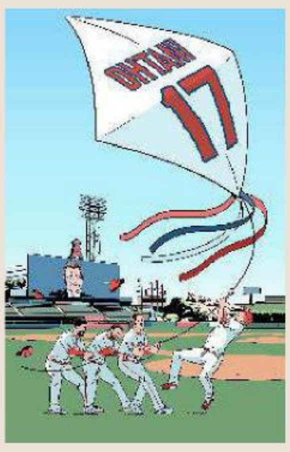

Madison Ketcham For The Times

Angels seek ways to keep Ohtani

As free agency beckons, two-way star enters what may be last season in Anaheim. **SPORTS, D1**

Weather:
Mostly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 67/44. **B10**

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PERSPECTIVES

Cancer drug maker gets a pass despite Biden vow

MICHAEL HILTZIK

You might get the impression from the Biden administration's insulin price cut and its initiative allowing Medicare to negotiate over other pharmaceuticals that the drug pricing issue is finally being taken seriously in Washington.

Sadly, no.

The evidence that nothing much has changed arrived just this week, with a notice from the Department of Health and Human Services rejecting a petition for a price cut on Xtandi, a wonder drug for prostate cancer that was developed with public funding at UCLA.

The drug is marketed in the U.S. by Pfizer and the Japanese drug company Astellas for $189,800 a year. In Canada, a year's supply costs $32,558, and in Japan it costs $31,594. Neither country contributed a dime to Xtandi's development. In no other developed country does it cost more than $57,000.

The action by HHS is its attempt to close the book on a four-year effort by prostate cancer patients and others to force the agency to utilize its rights under federal law to ensure patient access to government-funded drugs "on reasonable terms."

"It's not just disappointing," says Robert Sachs, 74, a retired telecommunications executive who filed the original petition in November 2021 and waited while government officials assured him and his fellow petitioners that their request would be "carefully considered."

"After almost a year and a half, for them to send us a two-page letter that could have been written a week after we filed our petition and just contained boilerplate is hard to understand," Sachs says. He and his fellow petitioners are appealing the rejection.

The agency's rejection is at odds with Biden's stated goal of bringing down prescription drug prices across the board, which he expressed in a July 2021 executive order. The law allows the government to provide competition to bring prices down, but HHS won't budge.

HHS' rejection also comes at a time when Moderna and Pfizer, the developers of the most widely used COVID vaccines, are coming under fire for planning to jack up the prices of the vaccines fivefold, to $130 per shot. That decision landed Moderna Chief Executive Stéphane Bancel in the hot seat for nearly two hours during a Senate committee hearing Wednesday.

Bancel explained that Moderna's price is based on "the value of a product to the healthcare system. … How much money can be saved" from its usage.

This is a standard price-setting method among drugmakers. In this, the pharmaceutical industry is unique: No other industry asserts that its prices should be based on the higher costs of alternatives.

As I observed in January, it's impossible to overstate the moral depravity of this method. The companies are saying, in essence, that they deserve a cut of the savings in lives and money attributable to their products, and they'll decide the size of that cut for themselves — independent of considerations such as the cost of developing and manufacturing the drugs, the effect that higher prices will have on patients' access, or the contributions of others, including taxpayers.

It's also a method that will fatten the profits of the companies and their shareholders to an extraordinary degree. Even at the lower average price of about $26 per shot for its COVID-19 vaccine, Moderna collected $20.6 billion in profits on $36.1 billion in sales over the last two years.

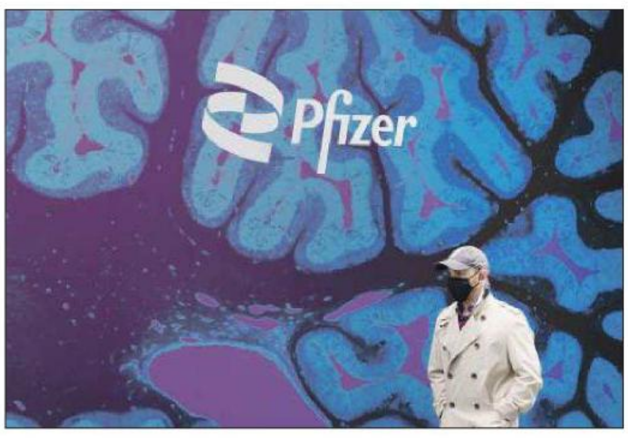
Those are essentially the only profits and sales Moderna has ever received, and they were entirely due to the vaccine, for which the company received more than $2.5 billion in federal grants and guarantees before testing was even completed.

Without that assistance, Moderna would almost certainly have been dead in the water and its vaccine might not exist. The profits were sufficient to fund nearly $4.2 billion in stock repurchases in 2021 and 2022, money that went directly to shareholders, including its largest individual owner, Bancel (with 7.3% of its shares).

Biden has been crowing about his action to cap insulin prices for Medicare members at $35 a month. That's a popular initiative that will bring financial relief to thousands of diabetics. But it only underscores HHS' dereliction in the Xtandi case.

Let's make a couple of points about Xtandi crystal clear. First, the role of government funding in the drug's developing isn't in dispute and can't be minimized. Sometimes public funding makes an indirect or attenuated contribution to a drug's invention, say through public funding of basic scientific research.

That's not the case here. The government's contribution, through direct funding provided to UCLA researchers by the National Institutes of Health and the Defense Department, is cited on each of the three patents covering Xtandi.



MARK LENNIHAN Associated Press

THE PROSTATE cancer drug Xtandi is marketed in the U.S. by Pfizer and a Japanese company, Astellas.

Each patent states forthrightly that "the government has certain rights in the invention." UCLA sold its rights in 2016 for $520 million.

Xtandi's pricing testifies to the lobbying power of Big Pharma. Last year, Pfizer spent $14.8 million on government lobbying; PhRMA, the drug industry lobbying arm, $29.2 million; and Astellas Pharma, $2.4 million.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce spent $82 million on lobbying last year; as Matthew Cunningham-Cook and David Sirota of the Lever point out, Pfizer's chief federal lobbyist, Jennifer Walton, is on the chamber's board of directors.

The legal grounds for the Xtandi users' petition stems from the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980, which governs the exploitation of inventions developed with federal funding. Bayh-Dole allows private companies to commercialize inventions that grew out of federally funded research, but it reserves certain rights for the government to protect the taxpayers' investments.

Chief among them are "march-in rights," which allow the government to order rights holders to license a federally funded invention to other manufacturers.

The law allows the government to offer a license itself to alternative drugmakers to ensure that the drug is widely accessible if it concludes that a manufacturer hasn't taken sufficient steps to make a product publicly available or hasn't brought it out on "reasonable" terms.

Pfizer, PhRMA, Astellas and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have all listed Bayh-Dole march-in rights as a top lobbying concern.

The government has never exercised its march-in rights. Xtandi was an ideal test case, because of the government's indisputable role in its development, and because its U.S. price plainly narrows patients' access to the drug.

Deductibles and co-pays can bring the out-of-pocket cost of Xtandi even for Medicare enrollees to nearly $10,000 a year. "For many people who are contending with prostate cancer, that's real hardship," Sachs told me.

HHS outsourced its analysis of the petitions to the NIH, which observed in its response that since more than 200,000 prostate cancer patients had been treated with the drug from 2012 to 2021, Xtandi was "widely available" and therefore the march-in option didn't apply. The NIH didn't estimate how many patients might have been treated if the price were lower, however.

Nor did the NIH acknowledge the burden on taxpayers. Medicare spent more than $7.8 billion on Xtandi from its introduction in 2012 through 2020. In some years, the drug has been among the top 10 costliest drugs for Medicare.

The NIH also asserted that because the patent expiration on Xtandi is so near, opening the door to generics manufacturers, there is no point in undertaking a full-scale analysis of the march-in option.

The petitioners dispute that. The patents expire in 2027. "Every year of monopoly pricing is not only worth billions to Astellas and Pfizer," they write in their appeal, "but more importantly imposes high costs and restricted access to a life-extending treatment for many advanced prostate cancer patients."

The NIH analysis "effectively declares that drug prices are irrelevant, and more specifically, that price discrimination against U.S. cancer patients is irrelevant," the petitioners say in their appeal. They're asking that HHS deal directly with their case instead of fobbing it off to the NIH, which would bring it under the purview of HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra.

Becerra and Biden have talked incessantly about how high drug prices impose a unique burden on American patients and taxpayers, compared with consumers in every other developed country.

They're right, and Xtandi is a perfect example. They should stop talking, and start acting.

Hiltzik writes a blog on latimes.com. Follow him on Facebook or on Twitter @hiltzikm or email michael.hiltzik @latimes.com.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

Criminal cases increase pressure on Trump

He warns of 'death & destruction' over possible hush-money charge. And he has far larger issues ahead.

DOYLE McMANUS

Donald Trump is beginning to sound panicky.

"WHY WON'T BRAGG DROP THIS CASE?" he wrote on his Truth Social account last week of Manhattan Dist. Atty. Alvin Bragg, who is investigating Trump's alleged payment of hush money to a porn star. "… THIS IS NO LEGAL SYSTEM, THIS IS THE GESTAPO, THIS IS RUSSIA AND CHINA, BUT WORSE."

In a string of social media posts, the former president called Bragg, who is Black, "a degenerate psychopath" and an "animal."

He urged his supporters to "PROTEST, TAKE OUR NATION BACK!" and warned that indicting him could result in "death & destruction."

All that over an indictment that hasn't been delivered, in a probe looking at whether Trump treated the $130,000 payment to Stormy Daniels as a business expense.

There's a baroque theory that Trump welcomes criminal prosecutions because every battle makes him a hero in the eyes of his followers.

But he didn't sound heroic last week. He sounded frightened and whiny.

The comically squalid hush-money case is probably the least of his troubles. The real threat to his serenity — and his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination — comes from three weightier investigations.

Charges from those probes would make Trump the center of attention, which he likes. But they'll also take his time and energy away from running for president. They'll take money, too, since he'll need expensive lawyers to defend him in each venue.

Indictments could also give his 2024 GOP rivals more opportunities to question his character and fitness for office — old-fashioned criteria that Republicans once used to evaluate candidates.

Trump faces major trouble in Georgia, where Fulton County prosecutor Fani Willis is investigating his pressure campaign on officials in the state to overturn its 2020 presidential election results. It's a felony in Georgia to ask an official to commit election fraud.

Trump called Willis, who is Black, a "racist" for conducting the probe.

A federal prosecutor, special counsel Jack Smith, is investigating Trump's retention of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago home, along with false claims by his lawyers that he had returned all of them.

Trump called that prosecutor a "thug."

The biggest potential criminal case is Smith's investigation of Trump's role in the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol, and his broader effort to overturn the 2020 election. That could lead to federal charges of inciting insurrection, obstructing a federal proceeding and conspiring to defraud the United States.

Trump said Smith is the one who should be considered a "terrorist."

Compared with those investigations, the hush-money probe may amount to little more than a trivia question: Who was the first prosecutor to indict a president, and why?

Now add the danger that Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Trump's principal rival for the nomination, might weaponize the former president's legal troubles against him.

DeSantis, who is expected to announce his candidacy for president this spring, used a voter's question about Daniels last week to draw a not-so-subtle contrast between himself and Trump.

"Look, I don't know what goes into paying hush money to a porn star to secure silence over some type of alleged affair," he said slyly.

He worked in another mention of "porn star hush-money payments," and added: "I've got real issues to deal with here in the state of Florida."

DeSantis expanded on the theme the next day, telling Piers Morgan of Fox News: "At the end of the day, as a leader, you really want to look to people like our Founding Fathers. … It's not saying that you don't ever make a mistake in your personal life, but I think, what type of character are you bringing?"

That was pretty mild, but it elicited an explosion from Trump.

"Ron DeSanctimonious … is, for a Republican, an average Governor," he said in a long social media post. "… He fought for massive cuts in Social Security and Medicare. … We don't want Ron as our President!"

In other words, game on.

If DeSantis keeps this up, he could turn the race into a battle for Republican voters looking for a candidate who promises to fight their culture wars, torment their liberal enemies and cut their taxes — without Trump's baggage.

But he'll have to show that he can deliver more than one punch. In the 2016 GOP primary campaign, Trump faced challenges from other candidates — Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz — all of whom crumpled when the front-runner struck back with bare-knuckled insults and character assassination.

In the campaign underway now, Trump's legal problems seem unlikely to help him.

They'll not only take up his time. They'll keep him in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons. They'll have him talking about his grievances instead of issues voters care about, such as inflation.

If Trump is indicted by only one prosecutor, he'll claim he's being victimized. If he's indicted by three different prosecutors in three different venues, that's more likely to raise doubts about his fitness for office.

Some will remain doggedly loyal to him, no matter what.

But others will look at all of those Dumpster fires and yearn for a less chaotic alternative. That provides opportunities for DeSantis and others to show what they can offer.

Trump knows it. That's why, instead of welcoming his impending martyrdom in the courts, he sounds so unhappy.

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Tactical nuclear arms going to Belarus, Putin says

Plan is in response to the U.K.'s decision to give armor-piercing rounds to Ukraine.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin announced plans Saturday to station tactical nuclear weapons in neighboring Belarus, a warning to the West as it steps up military support for Ukraine.

Putin, whose troops invaded Ukraine early last year, said the move was triggered by Britain's decision last week to provide Ukraine with armor-piercing rounds containing depleted uranium. The Russian leader earlier made a false claim that the rounds have nuclear components.

He subsequently toned down his language, but contended in a state television interview broadcast Saturday night that the ammunition posed an additional danger to troops and civilians in Ukraine.

Tactical nuclear weapons are intended for use on the battlefield, unlike more powerful, longer-range strategic nuclear weapons. Russia plans to maintain control over the ones it wants to place in Belarus, and construction of storage facilities for them will be completed by July 1, Putin said.

Putin didn't say how many nuclear weapons Russia would keep in Belarus. The U.S. government believes Russia has about 2,000 tactical nuclear weapons, which include bombs that can be carried by tactical aircraft, warheads for short-range missiles and artillery rounds.

In his interview, Putin argued that by deploying its tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, Russia was following the lead of the United States, noting that the U.S. has nuclear weapons based in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, Italy and Turkey.

"We are doing what they have been doing for decades, stationing them in certain allied countries, preparing the launch platforms and training their crews," Putin said. "We are going to do the same thing."

Russia has stored its tactical nuclear weapons at dedicated depots on its territory, and moving part of the arsenal to a storage facility in Belarus would up the ante in the Ukrainian conflict by placing them closer to the Russian aircraft and missiles already stationed there.

Some hawkish commentators in Russia long have urged the Kremlin to put the tactical nuclear weapons close to the other military equipment to send a signal to the West about the readiness to use them.

The U.S. said it would "monitor the implications" of Putin's announcement.

"We have not seen any reason to adjust our own strategic nuclear posture nor any indications Russia is preparing to use a nuclear weapon," National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said. "We remain committed to the collective defense of the NATO alliance."

Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine had nuclear weapons stationed on their territory when they were part of the Soviet Union but handed them over to Russia after the 1991 Soviet collapse.

Putin said Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has long asked for the nuclear weapons as a counter to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Belarus shares borders with three NATO members — Latvia, Lithuania and Poland — and Russia used its territory as a staging ground to send troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

Putin noted that Russia helped modernize Belarusian military aircraft last year to make them capable of carrying nuclear warheads. He said 10 such planes were ready to go. He said nuclear weapons also could be launched by the Iskander short-range missiles that Russia provided to Belarus last year.

Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who is living in exile, said the agreement to transfer the tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus "underlines the threat to regional security" from Lukashenko's government.

"Europe won't be safe until Belarus dictator is removed & brought before tribunal to face justice for crimes against our country & Ukraine," Tsikhanouskaya wrote in English on Twitter.

Lukashenko's support of the war has drawn international criticism and sanctions. But he has publicly stood by Russia, which has pumped billions of dollars into shoring up his Soviet-style, state-controlled economy with cheap energy and loans.

While discussing in his state TV interview the depleted uranium rounds that Britain promised to ship to Ukraine, Putin said the ammunition would leave a radioactive trace and contaminate agricultural land.

"Those weapons are harmful not just for combatants, but also for the people living in those territories and for the environment," he said.

Putin added that Russia has vast stockpiles of similar ammunition but so far has refrained from using it.

Depleted uranium is a byproduct of the uranium enrichment process needed to create nuclear weapons. The rounds can't generate a nuclear reaction, but they do emit low levels of radiation. The United Nations nuclear watchdog has warned of the possible dangers of exposure.

Such rounds were developed by the U.S. during the Cold War to destroy Soviet tanks, including the T-72 tanks that Ukraine now faces in its push to break through a stalemate in the east.

Pope expands church's sexual abuse law to cover lay leaders

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis on Saturday updated a 2019 church law aimed at holding senior churchmen accountable for covering up sexual abuse cases, expanding it to cover lay Catholic leaders and reaffirming that vulnerable adults and not just children can be victims of abuse when unable to freely consent.

With the update, Francis made permanent temporary provisions that were passed in 2019 in a moment of crisis for the Vatican and Roman Catholic hierarchy. The law was praised at the time for laying out precise mechanisms to investigate complicit bishops and religious superiors, even though it amounted to bishops policing fellow bishops without any requirement that civil law enforcement be informed.

But implementation has been uneven, and abuse survivors have criticized the Vatican for a continued lack of transparency about the cases. Their advocates said a wholesale overhaul was necessary, not just Saturday's minor modifications.

"The Catholic people were promised that [the law] would be 'revolutionary,' a watershed event for holding bishops accountable. But in four years, we've seen no significant housecleaning, no dramatic change," said Anne Barrett Doyle, co-director of BishopAccountability.org.

The new rules conform to other changes in the Catholic Church's handling of abuse that were issued in the last four years. Most significantly, they are extended to cover leaders of Vatican-approved associations headed by laymen and laywomen, not just clerics.

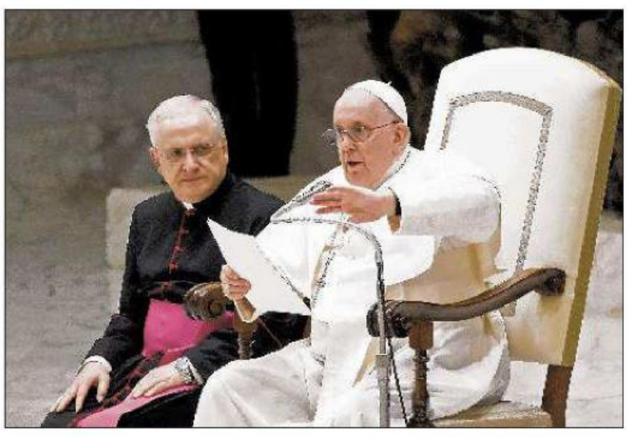
The expansion is a response to the many cases that have come to light in the last few years of lay leaders abusing their authority to sexually exploit people under their spiritual care or authority.

The update also reaffirms that adults such as nuns or seminarians who are dependent on their bishops or superiors can be victims of abuse. Church law had long held that only adults who "habitually" lack the use of reason could be considered victims in the same sense as minors.

The 2019 law expanded that definition and it is retained in the update, making clear that adults can be rendered vulnerable to abuse as situations present themselves. The inclusion is significant given resistance in the Vatican to #MeToo advocacy to recognize rank-and-file parishioners who are abused during spiritual direction by a priest as possible victims.

The definition reads that a victim can be "any person in a state of infirmity, physical or mental deficiency, or deprivation of personal liberty which, in fact, even occasionally, limits their ability to understand or to want or otherwise resist the offense."

"This can be read as further manifestation of how the church cares for the frailest and weakest," said Archbishop Filippo Iannone, prefect of the Vatican's legal office. "Anyone can be a victim, so there has to be justice."



ALESSANDRA TARANTINO Associated Press

POPE FRANCIS' update of a 2019 law also reaffirms that vulnerable adults can be victims of abuse.

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Man who inspired 'Hotel Rwanda' film is freed

Rwanda commutes 25-year sentence of Paul Rusesabagina, who was convicted in widely criticized trial.

By Cara Anna and Ignatius Ssuuna

KIGALI, Rwanda — Rwanda's government has commuted the 25-year sentence of Paul Rusesabagina, who inspired the film "Hotel Rwanda" for saving hundreds of countrymen from genocide but was convicted of terrorism offenses years later in a widely criticized trial.

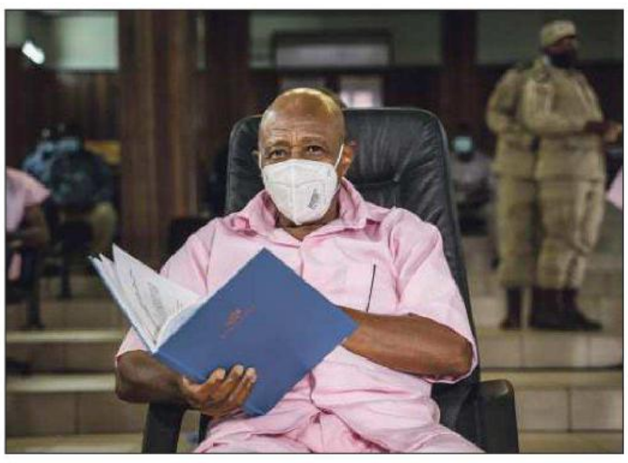
Government spokeswoman Yolande Makolo told the Associated Press on Friday that the presidential order was issued after a request for clemency on behalf of Rusesabagina, a 68-year-old U.S. resident and Belgian citizen. Senior U.S. officials said Rusesabagina arrived late Friday at the home of the Qatari ambassador in the Rwandan capital of Kigali and was expected to leave the country in the coming days.

President Biden hailed the news, saying, "Paul's family is eager to welcome him back to the United States, and I share their joy at today's good news."

Nineteen others also had their sentences commuted. Under Rwandan law, commutation doesn't "extinguish" the conviction, Makolo added.

"Rwanda notes the constructive role of the U.S. government in creating conditions for dialogue on this issue, as well as the facilitation provided by the state of Qatar," she said. Rwandan President Paul Kagame earlier this month said discussions were underway on resolving the issue.

Qatar Foreign Ministry spokesman Majid Al Ansari said in a statement that "the procedure for [Rusesabagina's] transfer to the state of Qatar is underway and he will then head to the United States of America. This issue was discussed during meetings that brought together Qatari and Rwandan officials at the highest levels."



Simon Wohlfahrt AFP/Getty Images

PAUL RUSESABAGINA saved the lives of hundreds of countrymen during Rwanda's 1994 genocide.

The case had been described by the U.S. and others as unfair. Rusesabagina disappeared in 2020 during a visit to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and appeared days later in Rwanda in handcuffs. His family alleged he was kidnapped and taken to Rwanda against his will to stand trial.

He was convicted on eight charges including membership in a terrorist group, murder and abduction. But the circumstances surrounding his arrest, his limited access to an independent legal team and his reported worsening health drew international concern.

Rusesabagina has asserted that his arrest was in response to his criticism of Kagame over alleged human rights abuses. Kagame's government has repeatedly denied targeting dissenting voices with arrests and extrajudicial killings.

In a signed letter to Kagame dated Oct. 14, Rusesabagina wrote that "if I am granted a pardon and released, I understand fully that I will spend the remainder of my days in the United States in quiet reflection. I can assure you through this letter that I hold no personal or political ambitions otherwise. I will leave questions regarding Rwandan politics behind me."

Rusesabagina was credited with sheltering more than 1,000 ethnic Tutsis at the hotel he managed during Rwanda's 1994 genocide in which more than 800,000 Tutsis and Hutus who tried to protect them were killed. He received the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom for his efforts.

He became a public critic of Kagame and left Rwanda in 1996, first living in Belgium and then the U.S.

Human Rights Watch said he had been "forcibly disappeared" and taken to Rwanda. But the court there ruled he wasn't kidnapped when he was tricked into boarding a chartered flight. Rwanda's government asserted that Rusesabagina had been going to Burundi to coordinate with armed groups based there and in Congo.

Rusesabagina was accused of supporting the armed wing of his opposition political platform, the Rwandan Movement for Democratic Change. The armed group claimed some responsibility for attacks in 2018 and 2019 in southern Rwanda in which nine Rwandans died.

Rusesabagina testified at trial that he helped to form the armed group to assist refugees but said he never supported violence — and sought to distance himself from its deadly attacks.

Rusesabagina also has said he was gagged and tortured before he was jailed, but Rwandan authorities denied that. His attorney, Felix Rudakemwa, asserted that Rusesabagina's legal papers were confiscated by prison authorities.

After his sentence, Belgium's then-foreign minister, Sophie Wilmès, said that "it must be concluded that Mr. Rusesabagina has not been given a fair and equitable trial."

Last year, U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken met with Kagame in Rwanda and discussed the case. "We still have conviction that the trial wasn't fair," Blinken told journalists.

"Secretary Blinken's visit to Kigali in August, being the senior-most official to visit Rwanda, played a key role in getting us closer to Paul's eventual release," said a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Anna and Ssuuna write for the Associated Press. AP writers Lujain Jo and Matt Lee contributed to this report.

100% inflation squeezes Argentina's consumers

Residents cut back on beef and other purchases as prices soar. 'Every day it gets worse,' says one.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUENOS AIRES — Jesica Fernández used to join seven family members every weekend for a large beef barbecue. But the meat is no longer on the menu, and now she and her family are more likely to eat spaghetti or chicken wings.

In beef-loving Argentina, barbecues happen only on birthdays or special occasions nowadays, Fernández said.

Fernández, 31, is among millions of Argentines struggling to make ends meet as the country's annual inflation rate clocked in at 102.5% in February, the first time it has reached triple digits since 1991.

Fernández was shopping recently at a market sponsored by the Lomas de Zamora municipality, about 15 miles from Buenos Aires, where businesses offer basic goods at lower prices in exchange for free retail space.

"We buy less beef and we buy fewer things. In reality, you can't give yourself the luxuries that you could before," Fernández said,

Argentina's Indec statistics agency said last week that consumer prices increased 6.6% in February from the previous month, a higher number than expected, on top of years of double-digit annual inflation over the last decade.

Victor R. Caivano Associated Press

A GIRL sits on a garbage bin Friday as her parents gather recyclable trash to sell in Buenos Aires. The last time the nation's inflation rate hit triple digits was 1991.

Food prices were among those that increased the most in February, rising 9.8% from January, in part because of a punishing drought that has pushed prices of meat and other goods higher.

"The situation is very difficult, and every day it gets worse," said Daisy Choque Guevara, 42.

Mabel Espinosa, 37, was walking around the market with her 10-day-old baby, Gael, hoping to find deals to buy enough food for herself, her husband and six children.

"The money isn't enough for anything," Espinosa said. "Barbecues? Forget about it."

President Alberto Fernández has been struggling to put the brakes on the country's soaring inflation rate, which will undoubtedly be a key issue in the presidential election set for October.

Argentines have long suffered major bouts of inflation worse than in other countries because of the government's penchant for printing money to finance spending. That trend accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic, while a sharp depreciation of the local currency also pushed prices higher.

Fernández's center-left administration has tried to rein in the spiraling costs through price controls that have largely failed. Much of the opposition says Argentina needs a broader stabilization plan that includes a sharp decrease in government spending.

"We obviously think the inflation data is bad, very bad. Plus, it was unexpected," presidential spokeswoman Gabriela Cerruti said Thursday.

"The government remains firmly committed to controlling prices, controlling inflation, reducing inflation."

Espinosa, however, is not convinced that things will improve, at least in the short term.

"I call it resignation — nothing will change. ... Why get angry?" she said. "Today you get something at one price, and tomorrow it will be another price. But it doesn't matter: You have to pay for it because you need it."

People have had to make cuts where they can.

"For example, if I could buy two yogurts before, now I can only buy one," said Roxana Cabrera, 38. "It's very difficult to buy now. You have to search for [lower] prices."

Anything that isn't absolutely essential is left for a later date.

"I was able to buy clothes before, for example, but not anymore," Cabrera said. "Now I can only buy food."

For some, the choices are even more drastic.

"We don't eat dinner," said Yanet Nazario, who lives with three of her children and seven grandchildren in an impoverished neighborhood in Buenos Aires. She was buying flour and soap from an improvised stand set up by a cooperative in her neighborhood that sells a few basic goods at lower prices than in the stores.

"There's a lot of sacrifice now because the money you make isn't enough. You have to work a lot more. We have to go to soup kitchens," Nazario said.

The children in her household get dinner from soup kitchens that now limit their food to only young people because overall demand has become so high.

"We adults only drink a cup of tea" for dinner, Nazario said. "The next day we'll skip breakfast, and have lunch."

FOR THE RECORD

Police photos lawsuit: In the March 25 California section, an article about a lawsuit filed by LAPD officers against Steven Sutcliffe, who owns killercop.com, said that Sutcliffe had pleaded guilty in federal court to eight felony charges of using a website he had created to threaten executives at Global Crossing Ltd. Sutcliffe was convicted of those charges by a jury.

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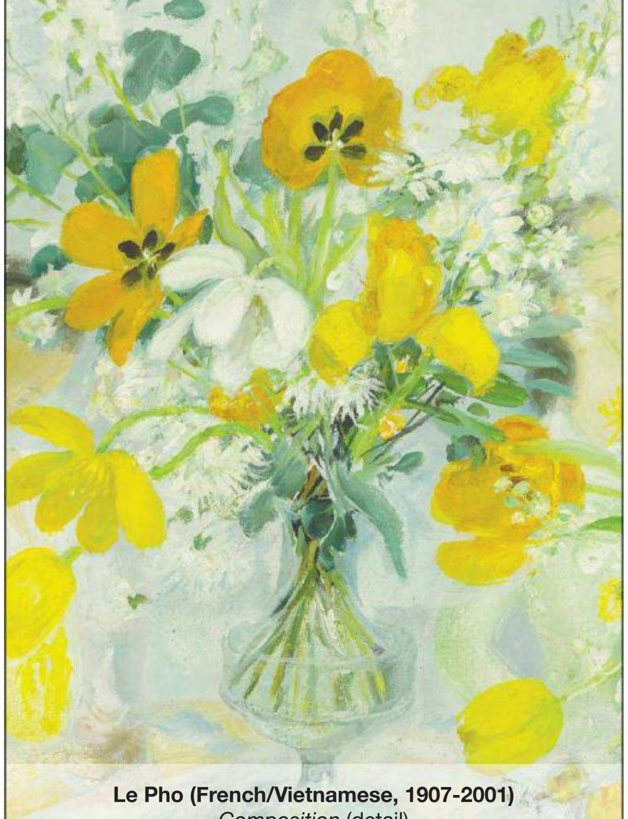

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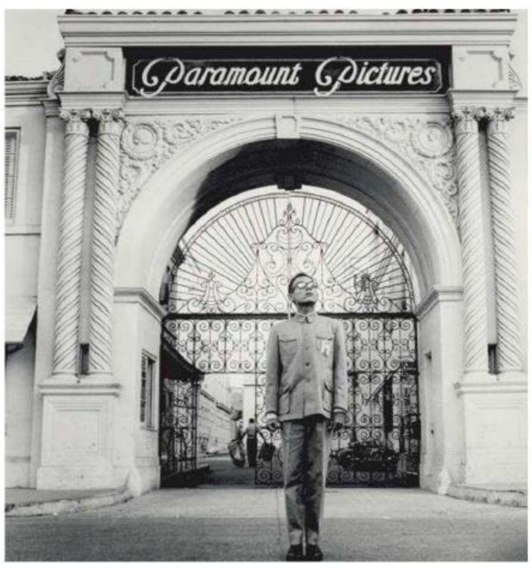

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A California Times Publication
Founded Dec. 4, 1881
Vol. CXLII No. 113

LOS ANGELES TIMES
(ISSN 0458-3035)
is published by the Los Angeles Times, 2300 E. Imperial Highway, El Segundo, CA 90245. Periodicals postage is paid at Los Angeles, CA, and additional cities. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the above address.

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Open Letter to President Biden

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Dear President Biden:

Today, America is witnessing the most frightening increase in antisemitism since the end of World War II. Jews make up just 2 percent of the U.S. population, but are the target of more than half of all religious hate crimes. Jews have been murdered, beaten, and spat upon – especially Orthodox Jews – with almost complete silence from political leaders and the media.

It is now common not just for major celebrities and athletes to utter the most outrageous anti-Jewish slurs, but even members of Congress. Even worse, vile lies have now filtered down into mainstream culture, especially among young people.

Jewish students have been singled out on college campuses because they have Jewish names or because they defend Israel's right to exist. Jewish enrollment at elite schools has plummeted. Jewish students are excluded from clubs and denied positions. This is not Germany in 1938; this is the United States in 2023.

Mr. President, only you can stop this rising tide of hatred against the Jewish people. You must use your office to address the nation and the world directly and say in the strongest language that hatred against Jews is dangerous for all people and it is un-American.

Seven years ago, I personally presented you with the Theodor Herzl Award, the highest honor of the World Jewish Congress. You have always been a friend of the Jewish people and I believe you remain so. But to stop this rising danger, I call on you to:

1. In a major high-profile address, tell the American people that antisemitism is no different than racism. Hate crimes against Jews will not be tolerated by the U.S. government, and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
2. The goal of the BDS movement is the end of the Jewish state of Israel. Any person promoting BDS, including the extreme progressive members of your own party, should be called out. These people don't represent your values, the values of the Democratic Party, or our country's values.
3. In 2019, the Executive Order Combating Antisemitism reinforced Title VI protection for Jewish Americans. Educational institutions that allow discrimination against Jews are supposed to lose federal funding. As you develop your strategy on antisemitism, please order your Department of Education to thoroughly investigate widespread complaints of antisemitic discrimination and your Justice Department to expeditiously pursue the cases that arise from an institution's failure to comply.

This is not just a Democratic or Republican issue. It does not come only from the left or from the right. And it is not just a problem coming from non-Jews. I have watched too many Jewish organizations and their leaders stay silent in the face of growing danger. In 1938, Jewish-Americans were also silent, afraid they would make matters worse for themselves by speaking out. We all know what happened. I had hoped that those days were long past, which is why I am writing this letter today. I will not be silent when Jews face hatred in America.

Mr. President, when you first went into politics in Delaware so many years ago, a man named Harry Zutz was one of the first to spot your potential and support you. I am told that you promised Mr. Zutz that you would always protect the Jewish people.

Given what we see happening all around us, I believe this is precisely the time for you to keep that promise.

Sincerely,

Ronald S Lauder

Ronald S. Lauder
President, World Jewish Congress

www.WorldJewishCongress.org

Publication of this message was paid for in full by Ronald S. Lauder.

U.N. warns of global water crisis and violence

Nations hold first such conference in decades to focus on solutions.

By Ian James

For the first time in 46 years, the United Nations convened a global conference on water, creating new impetus for wide-ranging efforts to manage water more sustainably, adapt to worsening droughts and floods with climate change, and accelerate solutions for the estimated 2 billion people around the world who live without access to clean drinking water.

The conference last week in New York brought together about 10,000 participants, including national leaders and scientists, with a focus on addressing the world's many water problems and making progress toward a goal of ensuring clean drinking water and sanitation for all people.

"Water is humanity's lifeblood," U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said. "But water is in deep trouble. We are draining humanity's lifeblood through vampiric overconsumption and unsustainable use, and evaporating it through global heating. We've broken the water cycle, destroyed ecosystems and contaminated groundwater."

Governments, nonprofit groups, businesses and other entities made hundreds of commitments in what the U.N. called a Water Action Agenda, with pledges as diverse as addressing scarcity in water-stressed regions and cleaning up lead-contaminated drinking water. Countries including the United States and Japan pledged to spend billions of dollars helping to improve water infrastructure.

The conference also prominently featured discussions about nature-based solutions, such as restoring river floodplains and coastal wetlands, and dismantling concrete flood-control channels to allow stormwater to recharge aquifers.

Leaders discussed strategies for adapting water management to become more resilient as climate change melts glaciers, raises sea levels and intensifies droughts and floods. With most natural disasters linked to water, U.N. officials said reducing risks should be an urgent priority.

As water scarcity has worsened in arid regions, violence over water has been on the rise.

Peter Gleick, a climate scientist and co-founder of the Pacific Institute, presented research showing that over the last two decades water-related conflicts have grown increasingly frequent, with more violence erupting over access to water in India, Iran and other countries in the Middle East and Africa.

"No region of the world has been immune from the risk of violence associated with water resources," Gleick said.

"There is growing competition for water. Populations are rising. Economies are expanding. Demands for the fixed amount of water on the planet [are] expanding," he said. "There are inequities, major inequities around the world, in who has access to and control of water resources. That contributes to tensions."

Gleick and other researchers have for years tracked data on water-related conflicts, including incidents in which water is a trigger of violence or is used as a "weapon," or in which water systems are affected by violence. They also have researched strategies for reducing conflicts.

Conflicts over water have erupted between farmers and city dwellers in India, and between farmers and herders in Kenya. Recent examples have included killings of farmers in disputes over water in Pakistan, and a protest in Iran that ended in violence when farmers rallied in a dry riverbed to demand the government address shortages.

In regions already plagued by poverty and violence, crises triggered by water — whether floods, droughts or scarcity — have displaced growing numbers of people who have left and migrated elsewhere.

About 40% of the world's population is affected by water scarcity, according to the United Nations, and demand for water continues to grow.

The effects of climate change are adding to the pressures, Gleick said, and "a lot of the places where water conflicts occur are places with weak management."

Scientific research has shown that with rising greenhouse gas levels, the changing climate is intensifying the water cycle and causing more extreme droughts and floods.

In the American West, researchers have found that rising temperatures worsened more than two decades of drought and have contributed to a 20% decline in the Colorado River's flow since 2000.

Using satellite measurements, scientists have found that groundwater is being rapidly depleted in many food-producing regions around the world, from India to the western United States, and that many dry regions have grown drier.

"The pace and the scale at which things are happening are unprecedented," said Jay Famiglietti, a water scientist and professor at Arizona State University's School of Sustainability.

In regions around the world where groundwater is being heavily pumped and depleted, he said, improving management will be crucial for continued food production and preserving aquifers for the future.

Famiglietti said he thinks the world should move toward a global framework for water similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its targets for reducing emissions of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels.

"We need to have some overarching guidance," Famiglietti said, "that countries need to begin committing to reducing their groundwater use or being more efficient, and thinking about their long-term groundwater supplies and how they will be sustained."

Because companies — and in particular the food industry — account for a large share of water use, Famiglietti said, they also have key roles to play. He said the discussions at the U.N. conference showed that "corporate water stewardship has emerged as a key priority at the C-suite and board levels."

The conference opened on World Water Day on Wednesday and ended on Friday. The first U.N. Water Conference was held in 1977 in Argentina.

Since then, Earth's population has more than doubled and water consumption has dramatically increased, putting stresses on resources that are projected to continue growing.

"We have to really revalue water and start to manage and organize and govern it totally differently," said Henk Ovink, the conference co-chair and the Netherlands' special envoy for international water affairs.

Ovink said that "institutionalizing water security is going to be of critical importance for the world" and that the commitments by countries, companies and organizations will propel actions toward a "water-secure future."

Ambika Vishwanath, a water expert and director of Kubernein Initiative in Mumbai, said water management needs to change in India and other countries to prevent overuse and prioritize the protection of resources.

"We have to think about where it's coming from. Is that water resource also safeguarded for the future?" Vishwanath said.

She said protecting the source watersheds, including rivers as well as groundwater, is vital because "that access will one day disappear if we haven't thought about the other side of that pipe."

Many at the conference spoke of a need to work with nature to manage water, including by restoring healthy ecosystems in floodplains, wetlands and forests.

"Nature-based solutions are a great option, because they're a softer option and less intrusive," said Leslie Duncan, senior Aboriginal consultant with Alluvium Consulting and chief executive of Economic Participation of Indigenous Communities in Australia.

"The hard solutions of steel, cement and damming are not necessarily the right solutions," Duncan said. "So we need to turn our minds to thinking about Mother Nature, and how we can look at those nature-based solutions that can deliver."

Participants also discussed the role of Indigenous people in governing shared water resources.

Duncan, of the Kamilaroi Aboriginal people, said that inclusive governance is vital in deciding how water is allocated and that Indigenous people's traditional knowledge about agriculture and other subjects can provide critical guidance for sustainable water practices.

"In Australia, Indigenous people have coexisted on the driest inhabited continent on the planet in a symbiotic manner," Duncan said.

"A lot of water knowledge is with our Indigenous women globally. And the term that we've introduced here, from Australia, is the rematriation of that knowledge," Duncan said.

"The climate change issue is here. It's every day. So we need to look at the type of technology and the water infrastructure that's going to deliver, that can stand the pressures," Duncan said. "We will be judged by our next generation on the state of the environment and the type of society that they're going to grow into."

The U.N. secretary-general said the commitments made at the conference "will propel humanity towards the water-secure future every person on the planet needs."

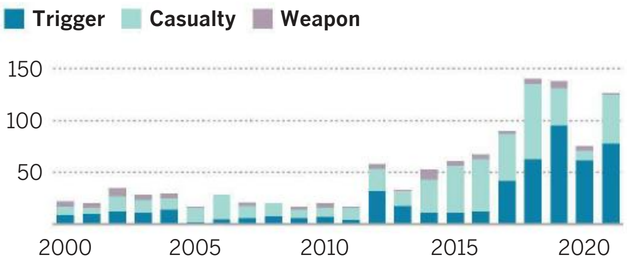
He said key priorities include reducing pressures on water resources and developing alternative agricultural systems to address unsustainable overuse of water in food production. Leaders also agreed to create a new global water information system by 2030.

Felicia Marcus, a water researcher at Stanford University, said she hopes the conference will lead to a burst of action to move toward the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goal 6 — ensuring access to clean water and sanitation for all, which the world body has enshrined as a fundamental human right.

"The top of the list is really accelerating work on the human right to water and getting clean water and sanitation to everyone in the world," she said. "That's not impossible to do. But it requires focused effort."

Water-related conflicts on the rise worldwide

The count includes conflicts in which water is a trigger of violence, water resources are affected by violence, or water is used as a "weapon."



Conflicts that fall in more than one category are repeated.

Peter Gleick and Morgan Shimabuku 2023 Environmental Research Letters

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Iraqi province sees a surge in deadly sectarian attacks

By Yasmine Mosimann

MUQDADIYA, Iraq — Hussein Maytham and his family were driving past the palm tree grove near their home after a quiet evening shopping for toys for his younger cousins when their car hit a bomb planted on the moonlit road.

"I only remember the explosion," Hussein, 16, said weakly from his hospital bed, his pale arms speckled brown by shrapnel. The attack took place earlier this month in the Shiite-majority village of Hazanieh. The force of the blast hurled the teenager out of the vehicle, but his family — his parents, an aunt and three cousins — perished in the fiery carnage. Residents say gunmen hidden nearby in irrigation canals opened fire, killing two others.

This is the latest in a series of attacks witnessed over the last month in the central Iraqi province of Diyala, north and east of Baghdad. Security officials say at least 19 civilians have been killed by unidentified assailants, including in two targeted attacks.

The violence is pitting communities against one another in the ethnically and religiously diverse province. It also raises questions about whether the relative calm and stability that has prevailed in much of Iraq in the years since the defeat of the extremist group Islamic State can be sustained.

Iraq as a whole has moved on from the conditions that enabled the rise of Islamic State and the large-scale sectarian violence that erupted after the U.S.-led invasion 20 years ago, according to Mohanad Adnan, a political analyst and partner at the Roya Development Group.

But some parts of the country, including Diyala, remain tense, with occasional waves of violence reopening old wounds. "There are a few villages, especially in Diyala, where they have not overcome what happened in the past," Adnan said.

Officials, residents, and analysts say at least one instance of violence in Diyala appears to be a sectarian reprisal by Shiites against Sunnis over an Islamic State-claimed attack. But they say other killings were carried out by Shiites against Shiites, as rival militias and their tribal and political allies that control the province struggle over influence and lucrative racketeering networks. Diyala, bordering both Iran and Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region, is a prime conduit for smuggling, including drugs.

The Iranian-backed Badr Organization, a state-sanctioned militia within the Popular Mobilization Forces with a political wing, wrested control of the province from Islamic State in 2015. Since then, it has asserted its dominance over several Shiite political parties and their associated paramilitaries, as well as Sunni groups.

Although most Sunni residents displaced during the war against Islamic State have returned to the province, they say they are often viewed with suspicion by authorities and neighbors because of their perceived affiliation with the extremists. When remnants of the group stage attacks on civilians or security forces, it often prompts a spiral of retaliatory attacks.

In the Sunni village of Jalaylah, nine people, including women and children, were killed in a gruesome attack in late February, two months after they were blamed for allowing an Islamic State attack on a neighboring village, according to security officials.

The attackers moved openly through the area, said villager Awadh Azzawi. "They didn't wear masks. Their faces were clear," he said.

Residents accuse members of the nearby Shiite village Albu Bali, where Islamic State killed nine in December, of carrying out the attack in revenge. They say the perpetrators belong to local militias using weapons given to them by the state. Security officials affiliated with the armed groups declined to comment.

Banners calling for the blood of the attackers are hoisted on the walls of Jalaylah.

Hussein's relatives less readily voice their suspicions of who killed their family members, who were Shiite.

"Only God can be certain who is behind this attack," said Sheikh Mustaf, the teenager's grandfather, in his reception hall surrounded by guests offering their condolences for the eight killed in the March 3 assault, only describing the attackers as "terrorists."

A local leader of the Bani Tamim, one of the most prominent Shiite-majority tribes in Diyala, Sheikh Mustaf has called for calm. But tribe members say their weapons are at the ready if authorities do not bring the assailants to justice.

Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Sudani visited Diyala days after the attack, sending military reinforcements to the area. Several have been arrested on terrorism charges, and caches of weapons, including mortars, missiles and ammunition, have been uncovered, according to the security media cell.

"We blame the security forces and the government because they have to secure the area. It's their responsibility," said Sheikh Maher, another relative of the deceased and prominent member of the tribe. He blamed "foreign hands" that he said "are trying to return our province back to the days of sectarianism and chaos."

A provincial security official, speaking to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media, said, "What is happening in Diyala is not only terrorism" — a term generally used for attacks by Sunni militant groups like Islamic State — "but also a struggle for influence between armed factions linked to political blocs."

Experts say internal rifts are emerging within the Bani Tamim clan, which is split in its support among the competing forces of the Badr Organization, the movement of influential Shiite cleric Muqtada Sadr, and the Iranian-affiliated paramilitary group Asaib Ahl al Haq.

"There is a struggle within the tribe in order to impose power and to obtain important positions in Diyala, positions in the Diyala government, and security positions," the official said.

Mosimann writes for the Associated Press.

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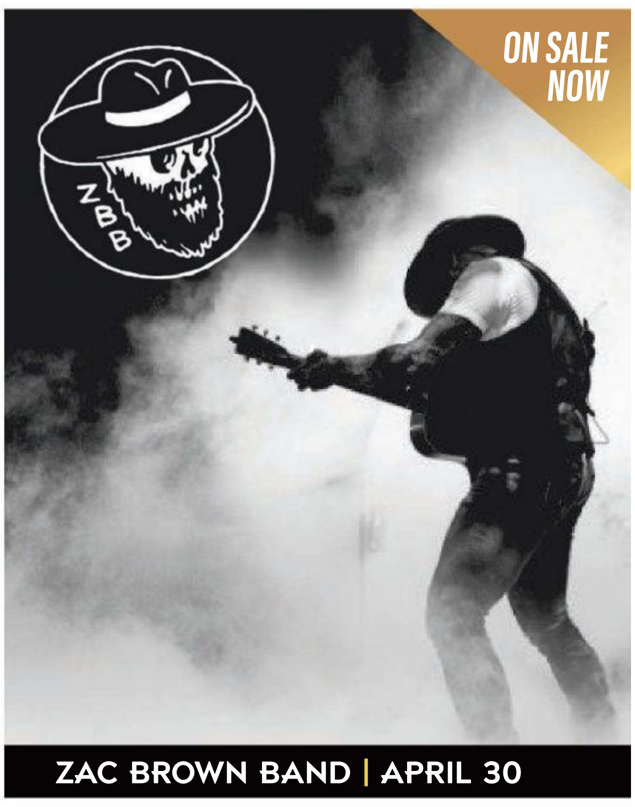

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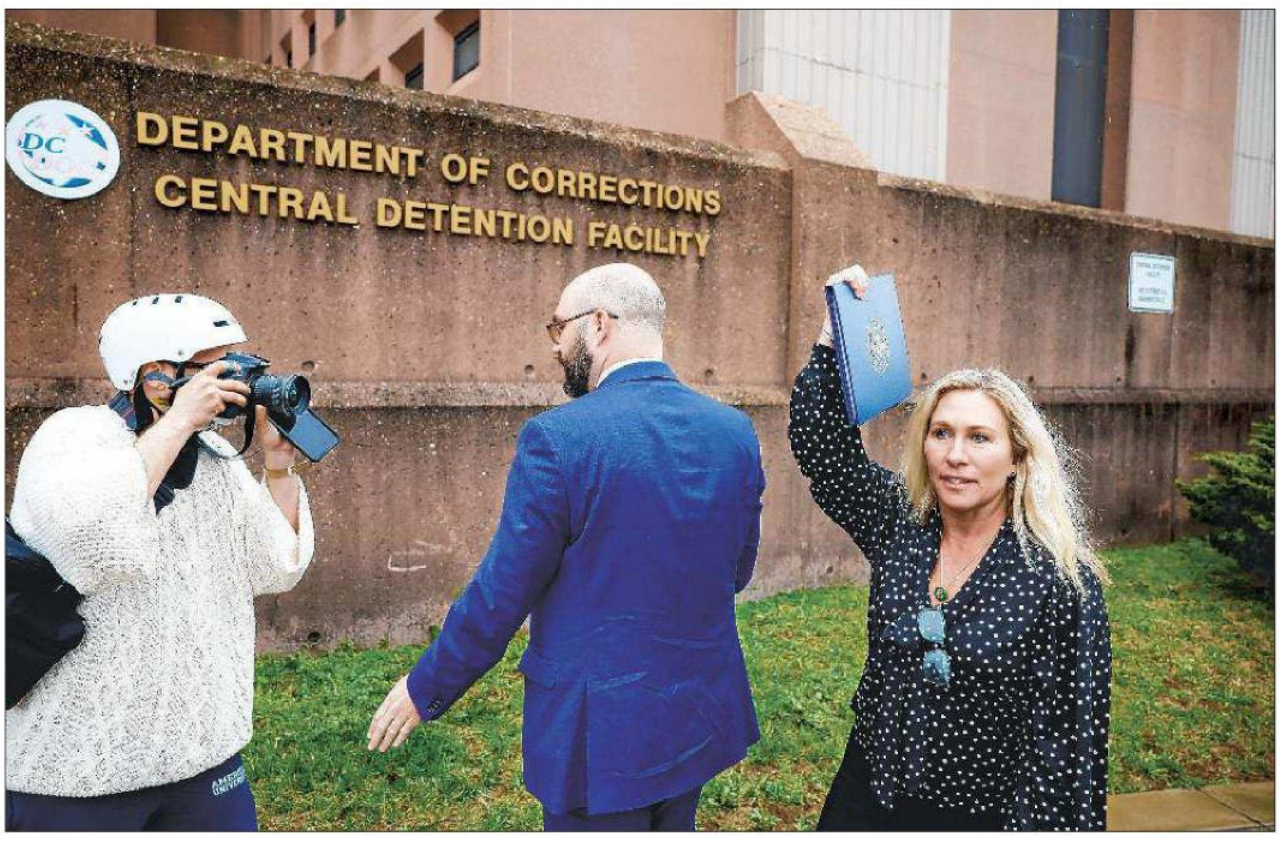
Jail visit pulls GOP closer to Jan. 6 rioters

Lawmakers high-five inmates as House Republicans steadily work to distort facts of the insurrection.

By Lisa Mascaro


Tasos Katopodis Getty Images

ALTHOUGH Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) has said the Capitol attack was wrong, during her visit to the Washington, D.C., jail she said the Jan. 6 defendants are being "treated as political prisoners."

WASHINGTON — Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene swept into the District of Columbia jail to check on conditions for the Jan. 6 defendants, with Republican lawmakers handshaking and high-fiving the prisoners, who chanted "Let's go, Brandon!" — a coded vulgarity against President Biden — as the group left.

A day earlier Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) met with the mother of slain rioter Ashli Babbitt, an Air Force veteran who was shot and killed by police as she tried to climb through a broken window during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

And the House Republican leader recently gave Fox News' Tucker Carlson exclusive access to a trove of Jan. 6 surveillance tapes despite the conservative commentator's airing of conspiracy theories about the Capitol attack.

Taken together, the House Republicans can be seen as working steadily but intently to distort the facts of the deadly riot, which played out for the world to see when then-President Trump's supporters laid siege to the Capitol, and in the process downplay the risk of domestic extremism in the U.S.

In actions and legislation, the Republicans are seeking to portray perpetrators of the Capitol riot as victims of zealous federal prosecutors, despite many being convicted of serious crimes. As Trump calls for the Jan. 6 defendants to be pardoned, some House Republicans are attempting to rebrand those who stormed the Capitol as "political prisoners."

The result is alarming to those who recognize a dangerously Orwellian attempt to whitewash recent history.

"There's no question Marjorie Taylor Greene and other Republicans are attempting to rewrite history," said Heidi Beirich, the co-founder of the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism. "They're making light of what was a serious attack on our democracy."

The tour Greene (R-Ga.) led at the local jail Friday comes as nearly 1,000 people have been charged by the Justice Department in the attack on the Capitol — and leaders of the extremist Oath Keepers have been convicted of seditious conspiracy.

The 20 or so defendants being held at the jail, many in pretrial detention on serious federal charges, are among those who battled police at the Capitol, officials said, in what at times was a gruesome scene of violence and mayhem.

Greene told the Associated Press the idea she's trying to rewrite history is the "stupidest thing" she's ever heard, especially since the assault on the Capitol has been captured in the 41,000 hours of video that McCarthy made available to Fox News.

"We can't rewrite it — it's all on video," Greene told the AP. "You can't change the history, but what we can do is expose the truth. That's what we need to do."

The country has been here before — in the aftermath of the Civil War, when the Lost Cause movement sought to reframe the battle over ending slavery in the U.S. as one of states' rights, and again in the years following the civil rights movement as critics of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. questioned his transformative legacy.

In the House under GOP control this year, the new leadership openly questions what happened on Jan. 6 as well as how the federal government is investigating and prosecuting extremists. Outside groups are raising money and rallying to the aid of Jan. 6 defendants.

Last week, a Republican-led judiciary subcommittee probed the federal government's treatment of parents protesting school board policies — sometimes violently — as unfair. In coming days, the new Republican committee on the "weaponization" of the federal government will delve into 1st Amendment free speech rights on social media.

McCarthy warned that the federal government is labeling parents as "domestic terrorists" for showing up at school board meetings, even though such prosecutions are extremely rare.

His was a reference to a 2021 Justice Department memo from Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland responding to the National School Board Assn.'s concerns about violent protesters at school board meetings. Garland had directed federal law enforcement to address what he called a "disturbing spike" in harassment of school officials.

Probing the matter, the Republican-led House Judiciary Committee released a report showing that in one federal investigation, the FBI interviewed a mother for allegedly telling a local school board, "we are coming for you." In another, the FBI investigated a father who opposed COVID mask mandates after a tipster to a federal hotline said he "fit the profile of an insurrectionist" because he "rails against the government" and "has a lot of guns and threatens to use them."

"Parents should have a right to go to school board meetings and not be called terrorists," McCarthy said.

Although Greene has said the Capitol attack was wrong, at the jail visit Friday she said she believes there's a "two-tiered" justice system and that the Jan. 6 defendants are being "treated as political prisoners" for their beliefs.

Democrats on the tour said that is categorically false. Though the local jail has long been the subject of complaints — the U.S. Marshals Service made plans to relocate 400 detainees after a surprise 2021 inspection found parts of the facility "do not meet the minimum standards" — the Jan. 6 defendants have been housed in a newer wing that was not cited as problematic in the marshals' statement.

The two Democrats who joined the tour as members of the House Oversight Committee said they both had visited detention facilities before. "It's probably as good as a jail can be," said Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-Texas), a former public defender.

Democratic Rep. Robert Garcia of Long Beach noted the way the Republicans led by Greene treated the Jan. 6 defendants as celebrities — shaking their hands and slapping backs when the lawmakers arrived in the jail facility.

As they left, the defendants chanted the "Let's go, Brandon!" phrase against Biden, he said in a tweet.

"What is most important to remember is that while Marjorie Taylor Greene and others want to treat these folks as pseudo celebrities, some of these folks are insurrectionists," Garcia told reporters. "And we can't forget that."

Mascaro writes for the Associated Press.

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> 'California infrastructure was not ready for this. We have to come up with a major plan, because this water's not going to stop.'
>
> — MELVIN SANTIEL, pastor of Allensworth Christian Church

Photographs by LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

JAIRO ESTRADA, left, and Juan Espinoza work to get one of their family's cars off their flooded property in the San Joaquin Valley town of Allensworth.

A phantom lake's return fuels conflict

MORE WATER is set to come rushing into Tulare Lake Basin in the coming weeks from the rain-engorged rivers that feed it — the Kings, St. John's and Tule, among them.

[**Tulare,** from A1]

This month, after a historic series of powerful storms, the phantom lake has reemerged. Rivers that dwindled during the drought are swollen with runoff from heavy rains and snow, and are flowing full from the Sierra Nevada into the valley, spilling from canals and broken levees into fields that usually teem with lucrative plantings of tomatoes, cotton and hay.

"This is unreal," said Mark Grewal, an agronomist who has worked on the area's farms since 1979, surveying floodwaters that stretched to the horizon. "I'm just amazed at how fast it filled."

Along with awe, Tulare Lake's sudden reemergence has fueled conflict in one of California's richest agricultural centers, as the spreading waters swallow fields and orchards and encroach on low-lying towns. In a region where the major agricultural landowners have a history of water disputes, the floods streaming into Tulare Lake Basin have reignited some long-standing tensions and brought accusations of foul play and mismanagement.

Residents in rural towns such as Alpaugh and Allensworth fear their homes won't be prioritized for protection from the rising waters. And as the water has overwhelmed canals, tensions have flared over where the floods should be directed, and which farmland should go under first.

"When there's this much water, nobody wants it," Grewal said. "The growers want to keep it off their land."

More water is set to come rushing into the basin in the coming weeks from the rivers that feed it — the Kings, St. John's and Tule, among them — sending flows coursing through the network of canals that crisscross the lake bottom.

"All of the arteries are full, and they're going to get fuller," Grewal said. "It could be as big or bigger than '83."

That was the lake's last high point, when heavy rain and snow unleashed runoff that, according to Grewal's records, covered about 82,000 acres. During that refilling, and a smaller reappearance in 1997-98, Grewal managed farmland for J.G. Boswell Co., the area's largest landowner. He now runs his own consulting business, working with growers in the U.S. and internationally.

The resurgent lake has already flooded more than 10,000 acres of farmland, Grewal said, and will continue expanding over the next two months as historic snowpack in the Sierra Nevada melts and flows to the valley.

Near the town of Stratford, Grewal drove along an elevated roadway through fields that usually produce tomatoes and where water now pooled in the dark rows of lakebed soil.

"This is all going to go underwater," he said.

In previous flood years, Grewal said, levees were typically cut open in an agreed-upon order, sending water from one enclosed "cell" to another, and filling the lake bottom in an orchestrated way. This time, he said, there have been delayed responses and more levee breaches than in the past.

"The flood isn't being handled properly," said Grewal, noting he works with one grower who has 2,400 acres of pistachio trees choking underwater. "It's a mess, because there are breaks everywhere."

In one mysterious incident, Jack Mitchell of the area's Deer Creek Flood Control District alleged that someone had intentionally cut open a levee with a backhoe in the dark of night. He says he knows who did it, but the report hasn't prompted an investigation.

Elsewhere, Mitchell said, the Boswell Co. at one point used a massive piece of equipment as a barrier, keeping Mitchell's crew from cutting into a levee to send water flowing toward the basin bottom and away from towns. "It's silly the way they're doing it," he said at the time. "It wants to go to the lake, and they won't let it go."

The Kings County Board of Supervisors stepped in to settle the dispute, ordering Boswell's managers to cut a levee and send water toward the lake bottom — and into their fields and those of other growers — rather than trying to pump the water up to higher elevation areas.

"They weren't really happy with me," said Supervisor Doug Verboon. "To have someone come and tell them what they have to do is not good for them. But what it did was, it opened a line of communication. So now we're speaking to each other and sharing ideas."

Boswell representatives did not respond to emails from The Times requesting an interview.

Over the years, the company has built levees on the old lakebed bottom to control floodwaters. "The idea is that you want to flood the least amount of acres the highest you can to minimize losses," Grewal said.

Local responsibility for flood control in the basin is split among about a dozen reclamation districts, which are controlled by landowners. State officials have visited the area to discuss response efforts. Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth told the news website SJV Water that she and her team are assessing the state's authority to intervene, if needed, to help "deal with the challenges we've already seen emerging in the last 10 days."

Verboon said one issue that has complicated matters is bad blood between the Boswell Co. and John Vidovich, who also owns vast acreage in the basin. Their disputes, some rooted in disagreements over water rights, have led to litigation, and Verboon said they have refused to talk to each other.

"We all pay the price when they're fighting," Verboon said. But he said he anticipates the flooding, which is set to worsen in the coming weeks, could spur the two camps to "work together to move this water out of here."

During the 1983 floods, Grewal said, a decision was made to take a large portion of the water that was rushing in and divert it to Southern California cities. "They pumped a million acre-feet to L.A. that would have gone to the lake," he said. "Boswell paid for that, just to dewater the lake faster."

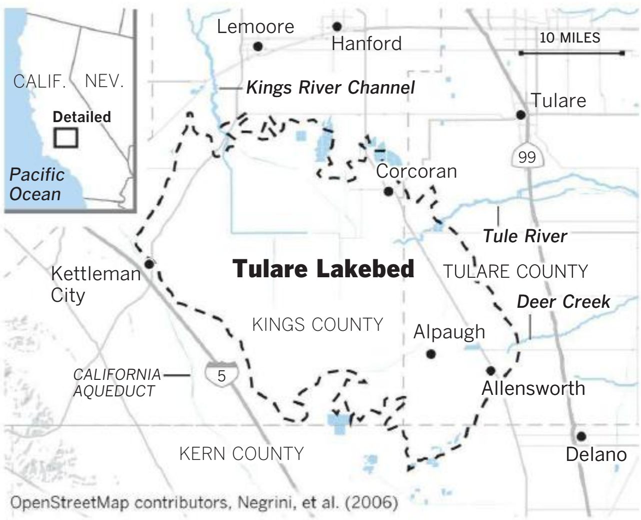
Farms in the lake's footprint rely on a mix of water from irrigation canals and groundwater. In many years, limited surface supplies have led growers to heavily pump from wells. As the aquifer has dropped, the land has been sinking. In parts of the watershed, that has altered where water flows.

In an interview, Vidovich did not address the flood response. He said some of his company's almond and walnut orchards have flooded, and that "you just have to hope that the trees get enough oxygen that they survive."

Other farmers have echoed the concern, saying that if water remains on orchards as temperatures rise, the roots will rot, killing the trees.

Former lake

The approximate boundaries of Tulare Lake in 1878, the last time it was full.



OpenStreetMap contributors, Negrini, et al. (2006)

PAUL DUGINSKI Los Angeles Times

In low-lying Allensworth, residents have used shovels and tractors to build berms, trying to prevent ditches from overflowing and sending water toward their homes. Its leaders have appealed for more help from county and state officials, as well as the adjacent railroad. Despite an evacuation order, many residents have said they plan to stay to try to defend their homes.

"The real spirit of Allensworth, to me, is to help the people that are in need in our community," said Melvin Santiel, the pastor of Allensworth Christian Church. "And we have to do it because we don't have anybody that's going to come and help us."

Santiel said he's concerned that some growers have been trying to keep water off their lands, and that canals and levees have suffered from a lack of maintenance. "California infrastructure was not ready for this," Santiel said. "We have to come up with a major plan, because this water's not going to stop."

Grewal said he thinks Allensworth will be in danger when the snow melts, and "they need to leave."

Tulare Lake's return, he said, could put valuable land out of commission for as long as two years, reducing production of tomatoes, cotton, safflower and alfalfa. He said he expects farmworkers will need to relocate and prices of processed tomatoes and other products will rise.

Nevertheless, the region's large growers have weathered past floods and will survive this one, Grewal said. And the bounty of water will bring a meaningful boost to supplies.

In satellite images of the San Joaquin Valley, the footprint of the old lakebed stands out as a darker, grayish area in the patches of farmland. In the days before the damming of rivers, the lake could stretch to 790 square miles, four times the surface area of Lake Tahoe, with depths of 30 feet.

Before white settlers arrived in the Central Valley in the 1800s, Tulare Lake was the center of life for the Native Yokut people who lived by its shores and along the rivers. Then farmers began diverting water and claiming land in the lake bottom.

More than a century later, members of the Santa Rosa Rancheria of the Tachi Yokut Tribe live near what was once the lake's north shore. The tribe's leaders have agreed to diversions that will channel some of the floodwaters onto their lands, easing pressure on the system while also helping to recharge groundwater.

The lake's rise is "just a very small reminder of what was once here," said Leo Sisco, the tribe's chairman.

The lake, which the tribe calls Pa'ashi, remains central to their spiritual beliefs. Their traditional songs include passages that say when the water rises, "that's the lake telling us, 'OK, it's time for you guys to get out of here now,' " said Robert Jeff, the tribe's vice chairman.

"So that's when our people would pack up," Jeff said, "and we'd head to the mountains, to our other villages, until the water receded."

"It's time to move to higher ground," he said.

Times staff writer Jessica Garrison contributed to this report.

Skid Row Housing Trust, tenants in disarray

Photographs by **Irfan Khan** Los Angeles Times

JARIAN Banks, 44, has lived five years at the Sanborn Hotel Apartments. An on-site manager who left months ago hasn't been replaced.

YOLANDA CUNNINGHAM Smith, 67, can't leave her fifth-floor room when the elevators are broken at 649 Lofts, which was run by Skid Row Housing Trust.

> 'It was really clear that ... what we were currently doing was really bad for the people living in the buildings, and really bad for the people working in the buildings.'
>
> — former Skid Row Housing Trust staff member

[**Skid row,** from A1]

appealed for organizations on firmer financial footing to take them over.

By then, Skid Row Housing Trust had left a trail of disillusioned former employees who found that its business practices did not match its lofty mission of "serving the poorest and most vulnerable people."

"It was really clear that, whatever sort of battle anyone had imagined that they were waging, what we were currently doing was really bad for the people living in the buildings, and really bad for the people working in the buildings," said one former staff member who left foreseeing the organization's coming collapse. "There was just no way to solve the number of problems that we were facing with the amount of time and money we had to solve them."

A Times examination found that the implosion of the celebrated housing nonprofit was a long time coming. The trust was undone in part by a challenging financing model for the housing stock it set out to save — single room occupancy buildings that it had bought over a period of 30 years to preserve them as low-income housing.

Through the years, the costs of keeping these buildings habitable only grew as a profoundly vulnerable residential population prone to substance use disorder and other impairments caused damage and chaos. Financial mismanagement and little stable leadership worsened problems.

With so much attention being paid to the city's unsheltered homeless population, the trust's downfall has alarmed the leaders of other nonprofit housing developers, exposing the perils of operating aging buildings for formerly homeless people who may experience long-term mental and physical health crises.

By the time the board of directors decided in October to break up the organization, regulatory setbacks, operating losses and management missteps had gone unaddressed for years. The organization had been cut off from local and state funding, borrowed millions of dollars to make payroll and, in a diversification scheme that horrified old-guard housing advocates, proposed a venture into cannabis production and sales to bring in revenue.

The dysfunction reached an almost comical climax in January when the board, depleted by so many resignations that it might be unable to mount a quorum, recruited a former employee for a single meeting to vote in a bylaw change reducing its size.

"The Trust's current financial challenges had reached a level that the only path forward is to transition all of the Trust's interest in the portfolio to other qualified affordable housing providers," interim CEO Joanne Cordero said in a statement, while not answering a list of detailed questions pertaining to this article.

Even as knowledge of the disintegration permeated the small world of homeless housing providers, leaders of the trust maintained a public front of normalcy, desperately trying to protect the image of a beloved institution and sustain public faith in the permanent supportive housing model it had helped to pioneer.

Those plaudits went further in a 51-minute video timed to the opening of one of its buildings, which included testimonials from elected officials including Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles), former Mayor Eric Garcetti and Supervisor Holly Mitchell touting the great work of the nonprofit.

"649 Lofts and the Joshua House Health Center are bringing housing, health and hope to Los Angeles and Angelenos for generations to come," Garcetti said about the trust's most recent development, which opened in 2021.

One nonprofit developer described the trust's troubles as one of the industry's "worst-kept secrets," and several others said Skid Row Housing's collapse has touched off soul-searching within other housing nonprofits whose boards and executives see warning signs of systemic troubles that could threaten their portfolios.

The situation "was both a wake-up call and a cautionary tale to housers everywhere," said Rochelle Mills, chief executive of Innovative Housing Opportunities, a nonprofit developer in Southern California.

The risk they share is that buildings created with tax credit financing lose their primary investors after they recoup their funds in about 15 years, and their fixed revenue from subsidized rents may not cover long-term maintenance costs such as roof repairs and air conditioner replacements. Private homeowner associations often impose special assessments to fill that gap. Nonprofit housing developers have no one to assess.

Added to that structural challenge is a policy shift of the past decade giving priority for housing to people who have been homeless the longest, have mental and physical health conditions and often substance use disorder. Wear and tear on apartments suffers accordingly, building operators say, potentially creating a downward spiral in which damaged units cannot be reoccupied, cutting into the building's rental revenue.

"A few of us have been fighting for years for preservation dollars to be available through the city and the state and the tax credit program," said Dora Gallo, chief executive of A Community of Friends, a nonprofit that builds and operates subsidized housing.

"The focus at all levels of government is new production, more housing, and there doesn't seem to be a willingness to invest in older buildings."

The conundrum was more extreme for Skid Row Housing Trust than for organizations that primarily build new housing because its portfolio is heavily weighted with early 20th century hotels with tiny living spaces, communal bathrooms and kitchens and, in some cases, poorly functioning elevators or no elevators at all.

For years, as its operating funds dipped further into the red, the trust has allowed more of those units to remain vacant. The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, which must clear all subsidized units for occupancy, has holds on 253 units spread over nearly half the trust's buildings, prohibiting the occupancy of 15% of the nonprofit's units.

"So you're losing money," a former employee said. "When you go beyond seven days and don't have anyone in the unit, you can't get paid."

Interviews with two dozen housing officials, current and former employees and board members revealed a pattern of inattention to those mounting problems that led to deteriorating conditions in the trust's buildings.

Most of the former employees interviewed by The Times would speak only anonymously out of concern of damaging relationships and jeopardizing employment opportunities in the small world of nonprofit housing. If they were named, some feared, they would be pulled into the vortex of legal disputes currently surrounding the nonprofit. Others said they were advised by their lawyers not to speak on the record.

One former executive said she was dumbstruck when she inspected the buildings to see how the lack of security allowed "a free-for-all."

"People have drugs in the buildings, you know, prostitution. We were told not to worry about it and it would get fixed. And I had enough knowledge to know that was not going to be fixed easily."

Tenants interviewed by The Times also complained about drug use and prostitution. The trust did not respond to The Times' questions, but in a recent letter it described the buildings as being in an unremitting state of crisis and said that because of budgetary shortfalls, it "will need to cease operations which will result in disastrous consequences for our residents."

"Many of the properties continue to face numerous challenges, including critical life safety fire protection system malfunctions, elevator outages, unrepaired damage due to excessive and ongoing vandalism, electrical outages, consistent and unrelenting vandalism and trespassers, electrical problems, plumbing and sanitation issues, among other adverse building conditions," Cordero, the trust's interim CEO, wrote in the letter this month to the leaders of the city and state's housing department.

Conditions in the trust's buildings were finally aired publicly in court filings last year. Lawsuits filed on behalf of 67 tenants in two buildings — the Hart and St. Mark's — alleged uninhabitable conditions including pest infestations, damaged flooring, electrical problems, broken windows and doors, sewage odor, water damage and mold.

The St. Mark's residents alleged lack of security, violence by other tenants and intimidation by staff.

Residents of the Hart alleged they frequently had to use buckets in their rooms as toilets.

"Defendants have taken zero action to remedy the underlying conditions that encourage pest infestations," their lawsuit said.

On-site management has grown sparse at other trust properties, leading to conditions Schlichter, the hoarding specialist, had warned about.

"This lack of attention to the Space Management program has in many ways hampered our efforts to solve problems effectively throughout the 4 years I've been associated with the Trust," she wrote in an email to the trust's senior staff.

At the Sanborn Hotel Apartments on South Main Street, an on-site manager who left months ago has not been replaced. Residents complain that lax security allows intruders to have easy access to the building and that one resident disrupts the entire building.

While giving a tour of the building to a Times reporter, a tenant pushed open the disruptive man's door, which was wedged ajar with a roll of toilet paper, revealing a chaotic scene. A box spring, leaning on its side against the open door of an empty refrigerator, blocked one corner of the room. A pile of household goods, clothing and a bicycle filled half the room, blocking access to the window. The man, sitting on a mattress on the floor, smiled sheepishly.

The trust's difficulty managing its aging portfolio was exacerbated by disarray in its leadership going back at least to the retirement of Mike Alvidrez, who had guided the organization through 14 years of rapid growth opening 10 new buildings.

In recognition of that growth, the board of directors had expanded the leadership team and elevated Alvidrez from executive director to chief executive officer. But the new executive suite never gelled. Several former members of the team described it as a cauldron of mismanagement, backstabbing, high turnover and nepotism that went unchecked by an inattentive board. And they said the high-end salaries — Lee Raagas, whom the trust fired as CEO last year, was paid $229,969 — and expenses such as a $451,599 contract for "executive coaching" drained scarce cash from upkeep and services at the buildings.

"The current ... financial condition in which we find our organization is directly attributable to lack of leadership and proper oversight, in every facet of The Trust, beginning with the Board & CEO," one former employee wrote in a whistleblower complaint filed last year. This transmission was one of at least three whistleblower complaints sent to the board about a small cohort of senior staff since 2019.

Alvidrez, who did not speak to The Times for this article, transitioned to a new role as external ambassador and CEO emeritus in mid-2018, leaving an awkward vacancy that the board found difficult to fill.

Six months later, bypassing two internal candidates, the board signed a six-month contract with an out-of-state homeless shelter executive — who departed with the board's blessing before his contract was up.

Next, the board turned to one of the internal candidates to fill the leadership void. Lee Raagas, who began consulting for the trust on growth and public funding in 2015, was elevated to chief operating officer in 2018, then tapped as chief executive.

Raagas inherited an organization in distress. Several of the trust's buildings were operating at losses. That created pressure on the real estate development side of the organization to backfill the losses with the fees generated from new development projects.

But the development program was headed for disaster too.

Around 2017, then-director of real estate development Dana Trujillo, one of the executives who was vying to replace Alvidrez, initiated a project that would

THE TRUST FACES many lawsuits by tenants alleging uninhabitable living conditions and by creditors seeking hundreds of thousands of dollars in unpaid bills.

drag on for five years in a slow-motion implosion that brought the organization to a standstill.

Trujillo, who was later fired, according to a lawsuit filed by Raagas, did not respond to interview requests.

The 98-year-old Edward Hotel, at 713 E. 5th St., had been refurbished in 1995 for single room occupancy. But the three-story building had no elevator and no air conditioning.

Trujillo's plan was to relocate the Edward's tenants into the newly renovated Simone Hotel Apartments a few blocks away on San Julian Street, tear the Edward down and build a modern replacement with more rooms and private bathrooms.

The Edward's tenants were moved in 2018 before the trust had financing for the new construction. And that funding would never come.

Five years later, the trust was struggling to get tenants back in.

Despite its internal turmoil, the trust set a goal in its 2020 annual report to "double the number of housing units and provide guidance and support for others who will be constructing permanent supportive housing" by 2026.

Raagas sought to diversify the trust by setting up what she called the project management office to pursue new ventures.

One of those ventures, proposed by a consultant and promoted by Raagas, was to build a 10-acre cannabis growing, processing and distribution center on a vacant city property in South Los Angeles. In 2019, the trust submitted a six-page proposal and architectural renderings to the city.

Besides the thematic clash with the trust's mission of housing homeless people, the concept of having trust clients going to work in a cannabis factory was viewed as an inherently bad idea.

"Skid Row Housing Trust properties at that time had a lot, still do have a lot, of drug use and things going on," one former employee said. "So it was kind of a ridiculous idea."

The board received multiple whistleblower complaints alleging that Raagas and two other executives each had grown children working at the organization.

Raagas, they said, hired her two sons to work in the new project management office. Two former employees who later sued the trust also noted this in their complaint.

Raagas declined to comment, citing a pending lawsuit she has against the nonprofit.

"To the extent that anyone places the blame of any challenges faced by the Trust now on Ms. Raagas, we look forward to explaining and proving at trial why such blame is completely misplaced and inconsistent with the facts," her attorney Eliot Rushovich said in a statement.

New board chairman Simon Ha responded to the complaint with a letter saying an investigation into the allegations against Raagas "did not result in sufficient evidence to substantiate the claims," but that "there is a cultural problem and a perception problem arising out of lack of communication, confusion surrounding current procedures and processes, and a lack of clarity on roles, responsibilities, and expectations."

By then, the trust was borrowing to make payroll and had accumulated several million dollars in debt, said a source familiar with the matter granted anonymity to talk about the nonprofit's perilous finances.

In theory, those loans would have been repaid with fees from several projects in development. But five projects that had received funding from the city's $1.2-billion Proposition HHH bond were plagued by delays, and the trust handed two of them to other developers to get out from under their holding costs.

And the Edward project was drawing scrutiny from state housing officials.

An October 2020 staff report on the trust's application for tax credits to complete the Edward project showed that it qualified for nearly $4.7 million in city and state loans. But the state Housing and Community Development Department was about to kill the project, saying it had not approved demolition of the building or relocation of its tenants.

In April 2021, state housing officials notified Raagas that they had found "compliance matters across the trust's portfolio" and "multiple areas of organizational concern."

These included negative cash flow at 60% of its projects with state funding, liabilities dwarfing its assets, high staff turnover and insufficient resources to complete five projects in development.

The agency found that the trust had removed tenants from the Edward, improperly used $100,000 from the Edward's reserves for operating costs, kept units at the Simone vacant to relocate tenants from the Edward and used more than $200,000 in Simone development funds for relocation expenses.

That June, three local housing agencies as well as the Los Angeles County departments of health services and mental health warned the trust of habitability and safety issues that were causing clients to decline housing in its buildings. They demanded a written plan to fix the problems.

By September, finding that the trust had failed to make corrections, the state housing agency declared it ineligible for further state funding — a blow that cut off its development pipeline and with it the developer fees that were a critical source of revenue.

In November, state housing officials visited more than a dozen of the trust's properties and found 250 habitability violations.

Over similar concerns, the Los Angeles Housing Department notified the trust that 13 of its properties — those with loans from the city — were in default for failing to live up to the terms of their agreement.

The notices are the first step toward the city foreclosing to turn the properties over to different housing providers.

Ann Sewell, general manager of LAHD, suggested that the trust divest its 29 properties. She recommended a plan to make them attractive to other housing providers by combining those with positive cash flows and others that are underwater into financially viable packages.

Creditors also went to court.

First National Bank of Omaha says it's owed nearly $50,000. Abode Communities, another leader in low-cost housing, filed suit over a $186,769 bill for architectural services.

Leaders of other skid row organizations told The Times that they have unpaid bills for services to the trust but are trying to resolve them without going to court.

Internal dissent reached a breaking point last March after CBS Los Angeles aired a report on deplorable conditions at St. Mark's Hotel.

Raagas' attempt to dismiss the report as overblown, as well as the whistleblower complaints against her, contributed to her downfall, said three sources who were involved in the board discussions at this time and declined to be quoted by name.

"I saw the pictures in that news report of literally, the worst slum housing I'd ever experienced, visually, I was just dumbfounded," one source said.

Several senior staff members also reacted with another whistleblower complaint ascribing blame to both the board and the chief executive.

They attributed the crisis to "overall lack of controls and financial chaos," saying the project management office lacked financial controls and was hemorrhaging money while the trust was struggling to care for its residents and complete its developments.

"The organization is perilously close to failure if immediate changes are not made and substantial nonessential costs like the project management office are not removed," the whistleblowers wrote.

The board fired Raagas that month. Raagas has filed a lawsuit against the trust and board member Patrick Spillane, alleging she was fired in retaliation for complaining that Spillane "cultivated a culture of hostility towards women."

Raagas' attorney Rushovich said the lawsuit describes the "challenges she and others faced as women at the Trust." He did not respond to the nepotism allegations.

In a written statement, Spillane said, "We will vigorously defend against her claims in court."

By the end of 2022, all three staff members who had told the board in March that it was still possible to fix the organization were no longer working there.

"We were wrong," one told The Times.

IWAN BAAN

THE NEW Carver Apartments was managed by Skid Row Housing Trust, a once-celebrated nonprofit seen as a model for homeless housing in Los Angeles.

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Demand Justice for Jewish Students

New report shows skyrocketing attacks on students' Jewish identity—rooted in anti-Zionism, a modern disguise for classic antisemitism. It's time to fight back.

Despite rising campus attacks on Israel, most Jewish students still support the Jewish state. But anti-Zionist hatred in the classroom and public square forces many students to hide their Jewish identity. Greater enforcement of Title VI anti-discrimination laws promises a cure to this injustice.

What are the facts?

According to a new report by AMCHA Initiative, bullying and intimidation of Jewish students on university campuses tripled in the last year, while attempts to censor Zionism increased six-fold. Calls to reject Jewish identity trips to Israel increased nearly 20-fold. Reminiscent of Jewish persecution in 1930s Nazi Germany, some 50% of U.S. Jewish students say they hide their Jewish identity, according to a 2021 poll by the Brandeis Center for Human Rights.

While discrimination against most ethnic minorities is strictly censured on campus, university administrators have generally failed to protect Jewish students from attacks against them. Fortunately, a spate of complaints recently filed with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) now demand redress under Title VI anti-discrimination statutes. Currently, George Washington University, City University of New York, University of Vermont, University of Illinois and University of Southern California are among schools facing OCR investigation for alleged antisemitism violations.

Antisemitic attacks on campus must be prosecuted

Not surprisingly, the AMCHA report implicated pro-Palestinian groups, such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) for responsibility in targeting Jewish students. Indeed, the report found that anti-Zionist groups like SJP were the largest overall contributors to attacks on Jewish identity. Despite their pattern of stoking antisemitic hate, to date only a single chapter of SJP has been permanently shut down on a U.S. campus—at New York's private Fordham University. The ban was upheld in court.

AMCHA's report also noted the contribution of nominally Jewish anti-Zionist groups and individuals to the assault on Jewish identity. One such group is Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), which uses its spurious Jewish identity as cover for antisemitism.

Bad enough that Jewish students are targeted for persecution by their peers, but even worse when university faculty support the persecution. No wonder, according to AMCHA, that universities with faculty who support the BDS movement were three to seven times more likely to suffer attacks on Jewish identity. In fact, AMCHA found that "twenty percent of threats to Jewish identity took place at events supported by academic faculty."

Sadly, without federal intervention, there's little hope universities will stop antisemitic attacks. Tragically, Jewish students who feel their Jewish identity is threatened can seldom rely on their schools' harassment policies to protect them. These policies usually forbid harassment based on one's ethnicity or religion, but in most cases, university administrators do not recognize hostility toward Israel and its supporters as a religious or ethnic issue.

This approach by university administrators ignores the definition of antisemitism established by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), which is recognized worldwide and includes discrimination and demonization based on anti-Israel hate.

Fortunately, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 may offer powerful recourse for Jewish students under attack. Because the statute prohibits discrimination based on ethnic identity, recent complaints to the OCR emphasize the integral connection between Zionism and Jews' historic relationship to their ancestral home, the land of Israel. Indeed, Zionism is not a political opinion—it is a fundamental feature of Jewish ethnic identity. Likewise, the Jews are not simply a religious group, but rather are a people who also share language, culture, ancestry and a powerful territorial heritage.

While violations of Title VI do not carry criminal penalties, their costs can be massive. First, recipients of federal government funding—which represents millions, even tens of millions of dollars for most universities—can be refused or revoked. Second, the OCR can require that causes of violations be remedied—ensuring Jewish students will no longer suffer attacks by students or faculty for their Zionist beliefs. Third, the reputational damage caused by civil rights violations can wreak untold damage on university fundraising and student recruitment efforts.

Attacks against Jewish students represent an assault on the American social fabric and our democracy. Higher-education administrators should be ordered by their regents to shut down all forms of antisemitism, especially in the form of discriminatory, demonizing anti-Zionism. Schools that fail to suppress these acts of hate should be prosecuted aggressively under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Punishment must be costly, painful and swift. Jewish students deserve better than the current hostile environment on campus. They deserve justice.

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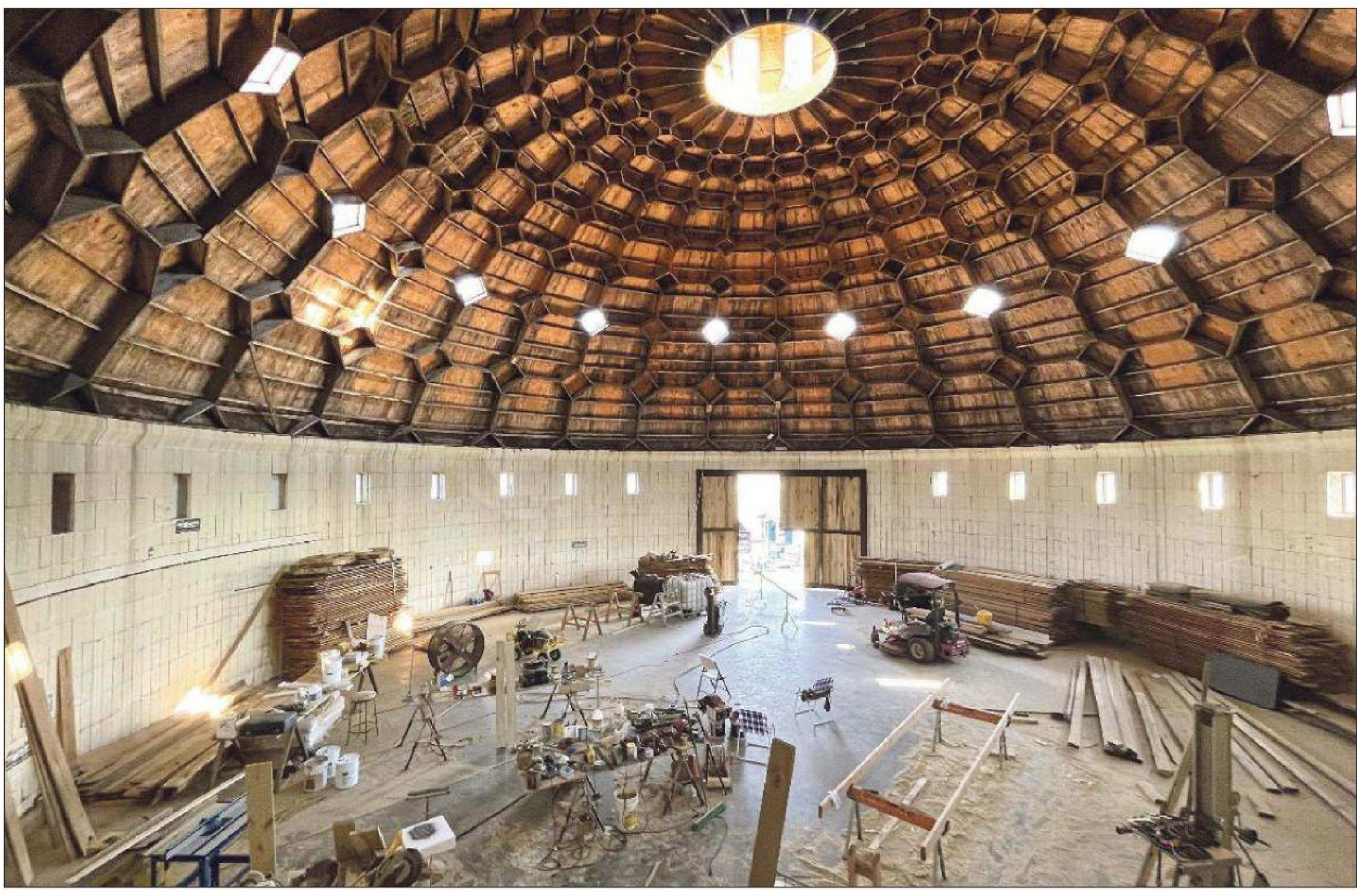
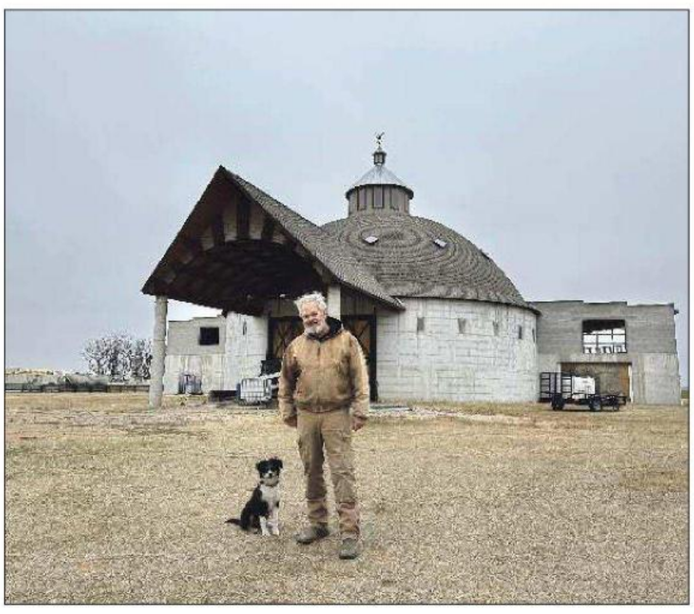


HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS Los Angeles Times

THE BARN'S DOME is made up of ascending rings of interlocking diamonds and octagons that Jay Branson cut by hand.



MARK E. POTTS Los Angeles Times

JAY HAS been working on his 15,000-square-foot round barn at his home near Guthrie, Okla., for seven years.

[**Barn,** from A1]

My great-uncle is 59. He's plainspoken and self-deprecating, as we Bransons tend to be.

He would never admit it, but he is an artist. Compliment his work, and Jay, ever the stoic, will usually respond: "It is what it is."

* * *

As a young man in the 1980s, Jay, a farm boy with a golden tan and muscles chiseled from hay baling and house building, went to Washington to visit a friend.

Inside the U.S. Capitol, Jay craned his neck up, gobsmacked by the dome, wishing he could build one someday.

"There's nobody in Oklahoma that's gonna hire my dumb ass to come out and build a round roof," he remembers thinking. "If you went to the bank to build a round dome, they'd laugh you out of the bank. If it's not a square box, they don't want to lend you money.

"I knew my chances of being able to do this would be probably slim to nothing."

Jay grew up on my great-grandparents' farm outside the tiny town of Marshall, Okla., population 200 or so, where my family — both my dad's side and my mom's side — go back generations. In its heyday, it was a proud place nicknamed Prairie City, with a Main Street nearly as wide as a football field — big enough for a team of horses and its legendary high school marching band to make a U-turn.

There's not much left of the place now. Its only school closed, and its downtown buildings were boarded up long ago. It's the epitome of rural Flyover Country, too often dismissed and caricatured by outsiders. But struggling though it may be, there's beauty — and brilliance — there.

My great-grandparents raised eight kids in Marshall. My grandpa, Jerald "Butch" Branson, was the oldest. Jay, 18 years his junior, was the second youngest.

They were poor. And they worked hard.

At 13, Jay got his first summer construction job, hauling bricks and mixing mortar for a crew building a church parsonage just over the county line. It was backbreaking work, the weather "hotter than blue blazes," Jay said.

"I'd hauled hay as a kid, but there was no comparison," he said. "That's kind of when I decided: You know, I've got to either get smart" about what kind of jobs he took on, "or I'm going to be an old man when I'm 20 years old."

My dad remembers a teenage Jay, mop of curly brown hair and a bone-dry sense of humor, bodybuilding on dirt roads, with a rope harness strapped to his body, pulling an old Jeep like a horse pulling a buggy.

Just out of high school, Jay went to work for his older brother John, who had been doing handyman and remodeling work but wanted to strike out on his own. Using a Reader's Digest do-it-yourself manual, the Branson boys taught themselves how to frame walls and construct buildings.

Their work was steady, and eventually Jay struck out on his own too. He built houses and businesses and my childhood playhouse, with its own set of monkey bars. He had his own successful construction company and employees.

As he admits, he's "considered an eccentric," prone to getting bored with "building a box over and over."

On a lark, he studied water pH levels and filtration systems and started building waterfalls from native Oklahoma sandstone for homes and a municipal park.

At one point, Jay bought a concession truck, made a custom kitchen for it and started selling cinnamon rolls from a recipe that he ginned up as a teenager, "sitting at home one night in Marshall, that little house, bored off my gourd."

He called his food truck Sleeping Dog Cinnamon Rolls. It was some of his favorite work, selling desserts at bluegrass and watermelon festivals with his brother John, who battled Parkinson's disease and was buried last year in his plain white work T-shirt.

But cinnamon rolls didn't pay the bills. Jay sold the wagon and kept building houses.

"That dang money always gets in your way," he said. "It is what it is."

* * *

Eventually, Jay built himself a squat adobe house a 25-minute drive from Marshall and built a happy life there with his new wife, Julie, her two little girls, and their infant daughter.

Then Julie, a beloved third-grade teacher, started getting sick. She had scleroderma, a cruel autoimmune disease that hardens the skin and internal organs. Jay bought a 45-foot-long motor home that they drove to visit her family out of state. He fixed it up with nice furniture, wanting her to be comfortable.

Julie died in 2016. She was 48.

Her daughters put pictures of her all over the house, smiling with those big brown eyes.

"I'd get up out of the bed that we'd just slept in and go into the closet to get ready for something. There's her clothes and shoes," Jay said. "You go in to brush your teeth, and there's her toothbrush, laying next to yours."

On the weekends, the girls — the youngest just 10 — would go see friends and try to keep busy. Jay often was home alone with his grief.

To stay sane, he went out to his backyard and started building the barn.

Although not exactly common, round barns have a long history in the U.S.

George Washington had a 16-sided barn at his Mount Vernon estate. And what is said to be the country's first truly round barn was built by a Shaker religious community in Massachusetts in the 1820s.

They were efficient for farmers who saved time by walking in a continuous circle to feed their animals, said Dennis Craig, a historic preservation officer at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, which has three historic round barns on campus.

Religious folks liked them because, it was said, the devil couldn't hide in the corners. And round barns were touted as being aerodynamic and more suited to the wind in Tornado Alley than square buildings. The famed Arcadia Round Barn on Route 66, built in 1898, is half an hour southeast of Jay's home.

Initially, Jay's was going to be a utilitarian structure, a shop big enough to park his motor home inside and turn it around in. He built it on the weekends and at night, while still building houses.

He began building the walls — using thick, double-insulated foam and rebar blocks that he filled with concrete — in a giant circle.

A neighbor suggested turning it into a wedding venue. He began visualizing a dome, obsessing over it as he lay in bed each night.

Jay drew a simple sketch of the interlocking octagons and diamonds that would form the arched ribs of the dome, but he never made a true blueprint.

"I just started cutting," he said. "You know, if you figure the circumference of any structure that's round, and divide it into segments, there's a way. You've just got to make it even, get it exactly right, and just start building."

Each piece of wood in the dome is hand-cut, uniquely shaped and curved, each placed at a different angle. Using a piece of aluminum, he built himself a tick stick — a centuries-old measuring tool used by shipbuilders for complex wood cuts.

He worked from a manlift that carried him 65 feet up inside. For the top of the structure, he created a steel tower that sat atop the dome and connected a winch line to it. He strapped on a harness and swung from a cable as he worked on the exterior of the structure.

He used poplar that he purchased green and let age for a few years, as well as pine and cherry

[See **Barn,** A13]

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[**Barn,** from A12]

wood.

For the front awning, he used sassafras, a semi-soft wood that darkens with age, smells like root beer when you cut it, and reminds him of the sassafras tea he drank as a kid.

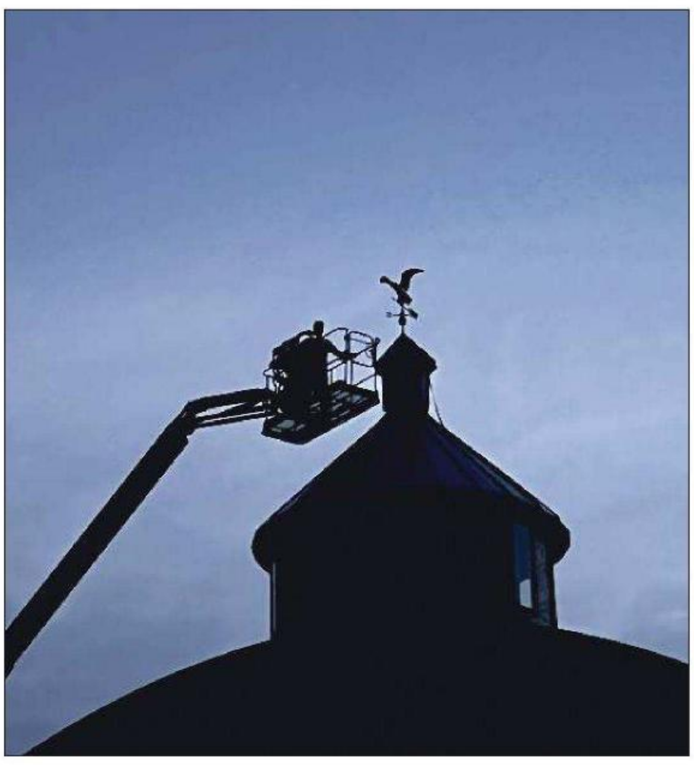
Jeff Williams, a retired Oklahoma State University architecture professor, said it reminds him of the ancient Duomo in Florence, Italy. The cathedral was under construction for more than 140 years; architects puzzled for years over how to build its dome.

Jeff, whose wife is from Marshall, met Jay a few years ago while standing in line for coffee at a Panera Bread, where they were both regulars.

"At that point, it was just the concrete walls," Jeff said. "It was interesting to me, just for the use of the materials. But I wasn't sure whether he was for real or not.

"The more he shared with me, I thought, 'This is a pretty creative guy.' But then I started *seeing* this — and it was like, holy cow."

Standing in the barn on a frigid day this winter, wind chill in the teens, Jeff told Jay: "This was your therapy."



Valerie Branson

IN THE SUMMER of 2022, Jay secured a cupola with a copper eagle atop his round barn just outside Guthrie, Okla.

A few years ago, Jay got married again. When he met Valerie, whose homemade cookies rival Jay's cinnamon rolls, the barn's plain concrete walls were about 3 feet tall. They now stand at 20 feet — taller than the adobe house.

Valerie has helped Jay plaster the walls and prop up pieces of wood taller than herself, gotten him down when he's gotten stuck on the manlift and dreamed with him about all of the barn's possibilities.

"She's been in constant construction since she's been married to me," he said.

"I share him," she said with a laugh. "I share him with that barn out there."

They envision a grand event space. Jay is building a spacious bridal suite and a bar in an add-on around the back, overlooking a wheat field. Valerie is excited to get going on the interior design, the tile and the colors.

To get all his state permits to make it an event space, Jay had to hire an architect to draw up formal blueprints for the structure — which had already been built without any. He's nicknamed his barn the Bird's Nest, since we always called him Jay Bird.

Even as it stands unfinished, so many people have come in off the highway that he finally set out a guest book. The entries are from California, Colorado, South Dakota and Texas. From all over the Sooner State. There's even one from Canada.

Jay never thought it would take him this long to build the barn.

But five years ago, the prostate cancer that he thought he had beaten years earlier returned. It spread. My strong great-uncle, swinging from the rafters, lost weight. He got tired.

It's the same kind of cancer that took his oldest brother, my grandpa Butch. A rugged outdoorsman who made teddy bears in his final days, my grandpa died at age 52, when I was 10.

Jay says he's doing better. He's trying to get the barn done within the year, and he's always out working in the heat, the cold and the ever-present wind.

He doesn't talk about the cancer much.

It is what it is.

Trump invokes Jan. 6 at Waco rally

Images, song and his incendiary speech at 2024 kickoff event celebrate the insurrectionists.

By Jill Colvin and Michelle L. Price

WACO, Texas — A defiant and incendiary Donald Trump, facing a potential criminal indictment, held the first official rally of his 2024 presidential campaign Saturday in Waco, Texas, a city made famous by deadly resistance against law enforcement.

In an extraordinary display, Trump opened his rally by playing a song, "Justice for All," that features a choir of men imprisoned for their role in the Jan. 6, 2021, deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol singing the national anthem and a recording of Trump reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Some footage from the insurrection was shown on video screens.

Trump, in an address brimming with resentment, defended the insurrectionists and berated prosecutors overseeing multiple investigations of the Republican former president. He framed the probes as political attacks on him and his followers.

"You will be vindicated and proud," Trump said. "The thugs and criminals who are corrupting our justice system will be defeated, discredited and totally disgraced."

Trump's rally Saturday at the airport grounds in Waco comes as he has berated prosecutors, encouraged protests and raised the prospect of possible violence should he become the first former president in U.S. history to face criminal charges.

Some of his recent rhetoric, including at the rally, has echoed language he used before the Capitol insurrection by a mob of his supporters seeking to stop the transfer of power to Democrat Joe Biden, who won the presidential election.

Trump declared Saturday that his "enemies are desperate to stop us," and "our opponents have done everything they can to crush our spirit and to break our will."

He added: "But they failed. They've only made us stronger. And 2024 is the final battle, it's going to be the big one. You put me back in the White House, their reign will be over and America will be a free nation once again."

His choice of venue in Waco comes amid the 30th anniversary of a 51-day standoff and deadly siege between U.S. law enforcement and the Branch Davidians that resulted in the deaths of more than 80 members of the religious cult and four federal agents and has become a touchstone for far-right extremists and militia groups.

Trump's campaign maintained that the location and timing of the event had nothing to do with the Waco siege or anniversary. A spokesperson said the site, 17 miles from the former Branch Davidian compound, was chosen because it was conveniently situated near four of the state's biggest metropolitan areas — Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, Austin and San Antonio — and has the infrastructure to handle a sizable crowd.

Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick told the crowd before Trump's arrival that he was the one who had suggested Waco as the venue. Any notion that Trump had picked the city because of the anniversary was "fake news. I picked Waco!" he declared.

Trump did not make any direct references in his speech to Waco's history, telling the crowd he told Patrick he wanted to hold his rally in a place with overwhelming support, not "one of those 50-50 areas," and said he told Patrick, "Let's go right into the heart of it."

"But as far as the eye can see," he immediately added, "the abuses of power that we're currently witnessing at all levels of government will go down as among the most shameful, corrupt, depraved chapters in all of American history."

Audience members were holding red-and-white signs handed out by the campaign that said "WITCH HUNT" and "I stand with Trump."

Trump repeatedly railed against the investigations on Saturday, declaring "prosecutorial misconduct" in the ongoing criminal investigations and decrying past inquiries, including one related to the release of his tax returns by the Democratic-led House after a prolonged legal battle.

"It probably makes me the most innocent man in the history of our country," Trump said. "Friends of mine say that."

The former president said he's had "bad publicity," but his "poll numbers have gone through the roof."

Hours before he arrived, hundreds of his supporters began streaming into the airport past vendors selling Trump merchandise. There were no signs of counterprotesters near the long line of Trump supporters waiting to get inside.

Among them was Eugene Torres, 41, who said he was unfazed by the prospect that Trump could be indicted.

"It's just another political attack on him to keep him from running and winning this race again," said Torres, who is from the Texas coastal city of Corpus Christi.

Alan Kregel, 56, traveled with his wife from Dallas to see Trump in person for the first time. Though he voted for Trump in 2016 and 2020, he said he thinks the former president's "methods and vocabulary" often detracted from his policies. But now, with Trump two years out of office, he said he is more supportive than before.

"He's an innocent man, just persecuted," said Kregel, adding that an indictment would help Trump win in 2024.

The rally had already been in the works before it became clear that a grand jury in New York was drawing closer to a possible indictment as it investigates hush-money payments made to women who alleged sexual encounters with Trump during the height of his 2016 campaign. Trump has denied the women's claims.

The grand jury investigating the hush-money payment is expected to meet again Monday in New York.

Trump has spent weeks railing against the inquiry and in a post on his social media site Friday warned of "potential death & destruction in such a false charge" if he's charged with a crime.

Trump has also repeatedly invoked violence while urging his supporters to protest, and used increasingly racist and dehumanizing rhetoric as he has launched ever more personal attacks against Manhattan Dist. Atty. Alvin Bragg, who is leading the investigation.

On Friday, a powdery substance was found with a letter threatening to kill Bragg in a mailroom at the D.A.'s offices, authorities said. Officials determined the substance wasn't dangerous.

Colvin and Price write for the Associated Press.

#1
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Powerful tornadoes in Deep South kill at least 26

'There's nothing left': Fierce twisters rip through parts of Mississippi, Alabama.

Associated Press

ROLLING FORK, Miss. — Rescuers raced Saturday to search for survivors and help hundreds of people left homeless after a powerful tornado cut a devastating path through Mississippi, killing at least 25 people, injuring dozens, and flattening entire blocks as it carved a path of destruction for more than an hour. One person was killed in Alabama.

The tornado devastated a swath of the Mississippi Delta town of Rolling Fork, reducing homes to piles of rubble, flipping cars on their sides and toppling the town's water tower. Residents hunkered down in bath tubs and hallways during Friday night's storm and later broke into a John Deere store that they converted into a triage center for the wounded.

"There's nothing left," said Wonder Bolden, holding her granddaughter, Journey, while standing outside the remnants of her mother's now-leveled mobile home in Rolling Fork. "There's just the breeze that's running, going through — just nothing."

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency announced late Saturday afternoon in a tweet that the death toll had risen to 25 and that dozens of people were injured. Four people previously reported missing had been found.

Other parts of the Deep South were digging out from damage caused by other suspected twisters. One man died in Morgan County, Ala., the Sheriff's Office there said on Twitter.

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves issued a state of emergency and vowed to help rebuild as he headed to view the damage in an area speckled with wide expanses of cotton, corn and soybean fields and catfish farming ponds.

President Biden promised federal help, describing the damage as "heartbreaking."

The wreckage in Rolling Fork was so widespread that several storm chasers pleaded for search-and-rescue help. Others abandoned the chase to drive injured people to the hospital.

Preliminary information based on estimates from storm reports and radar data indicate that the tornado was on the ground for more than an hour and traversed at least 170 miles, said Lance Perrilloux, a meteorologist with the weather service's Jackson, Miss., office.

In northern Alabama's Morgan County, a 67-year-old man who became trapped beneath a trailer that flipped over during severe overnight storms was rescued by first responders, but he died later at a hospital, AL.com reported.

TikTok ban would spell doom for some

[**TikTok,** from A1]

who are now allowed to pursue their creative pursuits."

Now, creators worry the platform might be taken away from them. TikTok Chief Executive Shou Zi Chew testified in front of lawmakers Thursday, trying to convince them that TikTok is not a national security threat. But he was largely unsuccessful in making the case that TikTok was out of the reach of Chinese influence, observers say.

The Biden administration has recently increased efforts to force a sale of TikTok by its owner ByteDance, which is a Chinese company subject to Chinese law — the same thing Trump sought to do in 2020 with a TikTok ban that was blocked by federal courts. On March 15, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States reportedly gave ByteDance an ultimatum: Sell TikTok or face a ban in the United States.

A recent bill introduced in the Senate that would enable the Biden administration to ban TikTok has bipartisan support.

An outright ban of the app would be a devastating blow to many of the small businesses that have turned to TikTok to reach potential customers instead of shelling out for more traditional and pricey forms of marketing.

Kellis Landrum, co-founder of Los Angeles marketing agency True North Social, said Facebook and Instagram are "pay-to-play" platforms that don't give as much of a return on investment.

"TikTok offers the broadest organic reach of any of the channels right now," Landrum said. "If you're very successful on TikTok, that's probably most of what you're focusing on because [as] a small business, you can't afford to attack marketing on a bunch of different fronts at the same time."

Elyse Burns, who runs a stationery and home goods design company she launched in college in 2015, said she's seen a direct correlation between her TikTok videos and sales. After posting a video featuring a shipment of day planners that got 2.9 million views in June 2022, she sold more than 2,000 day planners in two days.

MALI GUNAWARDENA AND KHALID POWELL Winning Lens

ELYSE BURNS, right, was able to open a stationery and home goods store, Mill & Meadow, in Durham, N.C., after the success of her online business. She's seen a direct correlation between her TikTok videos and sales.

> 'TikTok is so, so, so amazing. The community is extremely supportive in a way I've not found on other social media platforms.'
>
> — CHRISTINA HA, co-founder of Meow Parlour

"I can look at my sales and see like that month, I had a viral TikTok," Burns said.

Last year, she did $1 million in sales through her website, which receives traffic from TikTok and Instagram. She devotes four hours a day to those two platforms but has since expanded to doing wholesale and opening a storefront in Durham, N.C., to diversify her revenue. Through her business, which she now runs full time, she's been able to pay off most of her student loans and purchase a house.

Christina Ha experienced a similar phenomenon with her New York cat cafe and rescue organization, Meow Parlour. In late 2020, she started posting videos of her retired parents interacting with some of her foster kittens.

When she posted a video about her parents sewing cat beds to support her rescue work, her audience clamored to buy them. She raised $20,000 in one week.

"It was insane and kind of unexpected," Ha said. "When I look back at the video, it probably wasn't my finest work."

A video she posted this month captioned, "A day in the life of my 76-year-old dad," got 10.2 million views — and another $30,000 in cat bed sales. She's also received a flurry of visitors to Meow Parlour who have signed up to foster and adopt cats and become monthly donors to the nonprofit.

"TikTok is so, so, so amazing. The community is extremely supportive in a way I've not found on other social media platforms," Ha said.

Even businesses such as garbage can cleaning and carpet repair have found audiences on TikTok.

Josh Nolan, who runs Carpet Repair Guys in the San Francisco Bay Area, said he joined TikTok after nearly two decades of doing carpet repair after a technician told him he needed to get on social media. The results were astounding.

When he started moving content that he posted on Instagram and Facebook to TikTok, they were "just going through the roof in the numbers," Nolan said.

Nolan still uses Yelp and Google AdWords to bring in business, but he hears from customers all the time that they've watched TikTok or YouTube videos of him doing carpet repairs, he said. He now has more than 850,000 followers on the app and makes some additional income through brand sponsorships.

"I'm not off the truck yet. I'm still on the job on my knees fixing carpets, but it's been good side money," Nolan said. "It's paid for some vacations for my family, and it's just really an exciting thing for someone who never looked at himself as like a social media content creator. I'm just a blue-collar contractor. But yet you've got this resource here at your disposal."

Last fall, TikTok partnered with American Express on its #ShopSmall Accelerator program to help small businesses during the holiday shopping season. A week after the Senate bill to give the federal government the power to ban the app was introduced, TikTok launched an initiative highlighting small-business entrepreneurs who have found explosive success on the platform, allowing many to quit their day jobs.

That is what Wyman hopes to do, but the uncertainty of TikTok now gives her pause.

"Wanting to take the leap but also being scared, that you go from ... having over 125,000 followers [TikTok and Instagram combined] down to having only 17,000 [on Instagram], that's a large risk to take," she said.

As part of the company's campaign to change lawmakers' minds, TikTok paid for a group of TikTokers to travel to Washington ahead of Chew's testimony to protest the potential ban of their beloved app. Chew himself posted a TikTok appealing to the masses a few days before his testimony.

"I can tell you without question that the next generation of Black business owners are going to come from the TikTok platform," said Baedri Nichole, a bakery owner from Columbus, Ohio, who was part of the TikTok-organized news conference. "If you ban TikTok, then you put at risk putting a cap on the ambitions of a whole generation of wealth creators."

Without access to TikTok, small-business owners say they would probably focus their efforts on Instagram, where they already cross-post content from TikTok. But many are lukewarm about the Meta-owned platform.

"Instagram hasn't really done much for me as a creator or a small business," Wyman said. "I've used their tools, I've tried their ads. ... The platforms are nowhere near the same in terms of their audience, their engagement."

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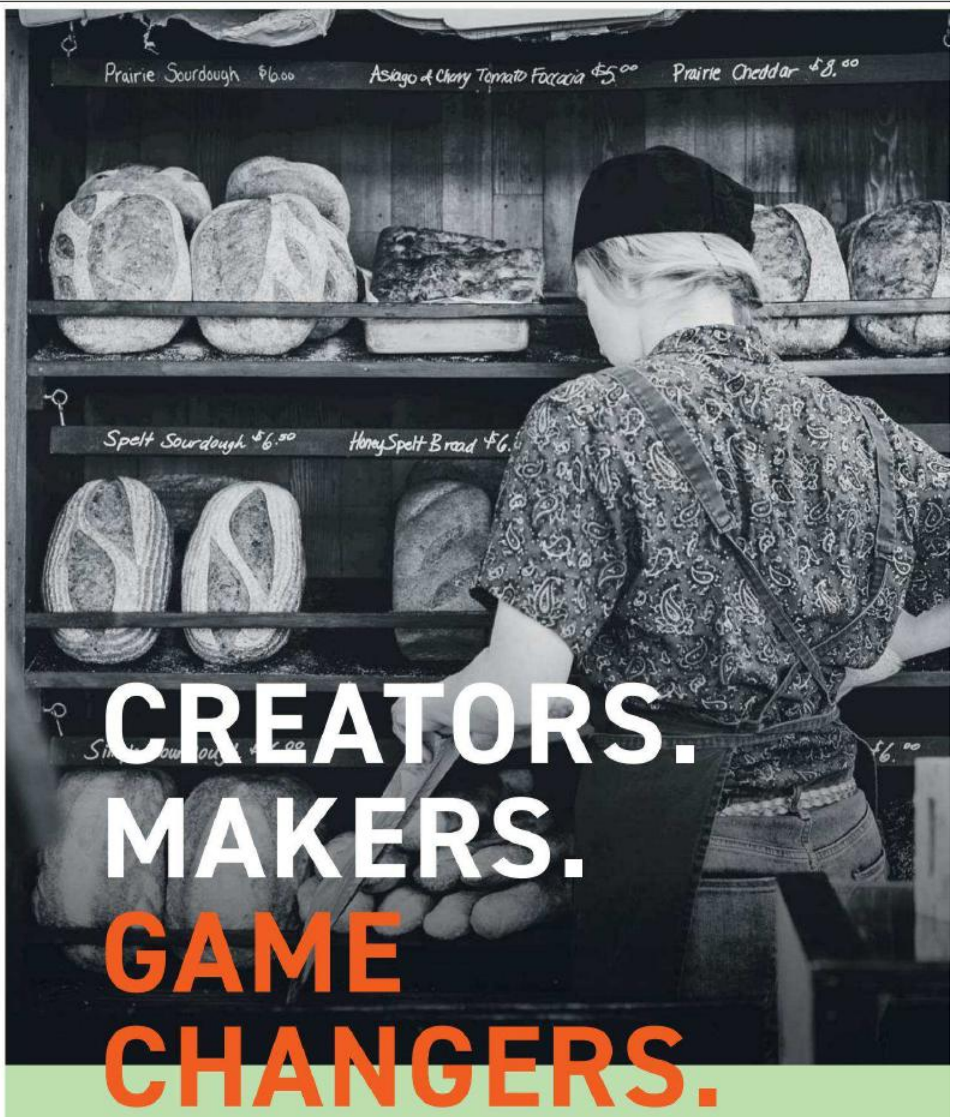

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ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

Silicon Valley is on edge — as it should be

Tech elites feel besieged after bank fiasco. In an earlier era, it was bombs not tweets they feared.

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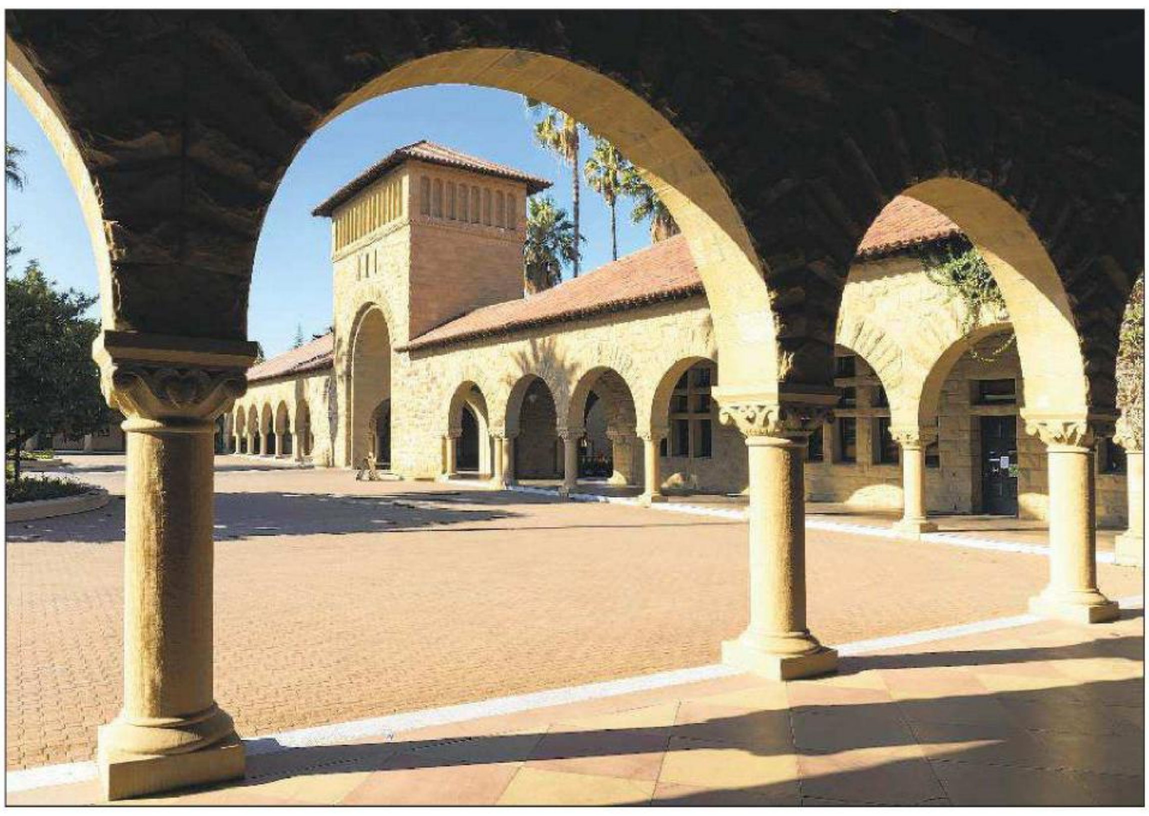


DAVID MADISON Getty Images

PALO ALTO radicals in the 1970s "singled out Stanford's industrial community and its role in the Vietnam War specifically and capitalist imperialism generally," author Malcolm Harris writes.

It's become a common refrain among a certain set of Silicon Valley elite: They've been treated so unfairly. Case in point: Even after their bank of choice collapsed spectacularly — in no small part of their own doing — and the federal government moved with dispatch to guarantee all its deposits, tech execs and investors nonetheless spent the subsequent days loudly playing the victim.

The prominent venture capitalist David Sacks, who had lobbied particularly hard for government intervention, bemoaned a "hateful media that will make me be whatever they need me to be in order to keep their attack machine going." Michael Solana, a vice president at Peter Thiel's Founders Fund, wrote on his blog that "tech is now universally hated," warned of an incoming "political war," and claimed "a lot of people ... genuinely seem to want a good old fashioned mass murder," presumably of tech execs.

It was a particularly galling display, a new high for a trend that's been on the rise for some time. Amid congressional hearings and dipping stock valuations, the tech elite have bemoaned the so-called techlash against their industry by those who worry it's grown too large and unaccountable. Waving away legitimate questions about the industry's labor inequities, climate impacts and civil rights abuses, they claim that the press is biased against them and that they're besieged on all sides by "woke" critics.

If only they realized just how good they have it, historically speaking.

It was mere decades ago, after all, that the Silicon Valley elite faced the active threat of actual, non-metaphorical violence. The most adamant critics of Big Tech of the 1970s didn't write strongly worded columns chastising them in newspapers or blast their politics on social media — they physically occupied their computer labs, destroyed their capital equipment and even bombed their homes.

"Techlash is what Silicon Valley's ownership class calls it when people don't buy their stock," author Malcolm Harris tells me. "Today's tech billionaires are lucky people are making fun of them on the internet instead of firebombing their houses — that's what happened to Bill Hewlett back in the day."

A 1987 article in this newspaper makes his point. When William Hewlett retired from the company he founded, Hewlett-Packard, or HP, as it's known today, The Times dedicated a full paragraph to the various threats of violence that the billionaire faced in the 1970s:

"In 1971, radical animosities directed at the upscale Palo Alto community and Stanford University campus brought terror into the Hewletts' lives: The modest Hewlett family home was firebombed. In 1976, son James, then 28, fought off would-be kidnapers. The same year, a radical group called the Red Guerrilla Family claimed responsibility when a bomb exploded in an HP building."

Harris is the author of "Palo Alto: A History of California, Capitalism, and the World," the book that is currently the talk of the town — it just hit the L.A. Times bestseller list — though not for the reasons that the valley's elites might prefer. It's a robust, sprawling history that's intensely critical of the Great Men of tech history, and even more so of the systems they served. It's been received enthusiastically, as an overdue corrective to the industry's potent penchant for self-mythology.

And some of the most potent mythologies, of course, rely on omission. Take, for instance, the popular narrative that whiz kids such as Hewlett and Steve Jobs started the computer revolutions from their garages in Palo Alto, where their starkest opposition came in the form of square old corporations such as IBM and Xerox — and not actual, bomb-throwing revolutionaries.

Harris' work reminds us that this was far from the case. There was a movement far more organized, far more militant, and far more sharply opposed to the Big Tech companies of the day than anything we've seen in the last 10 years.

When we think of the 1960s in California, we think of disparate, panoramic happenings in an explosive decade; the war in Vietnam, the rise of the computer, the student protest movement, and so on. But Harris argues that the computer revolution didn't simply coexist with the war — it fueled it.

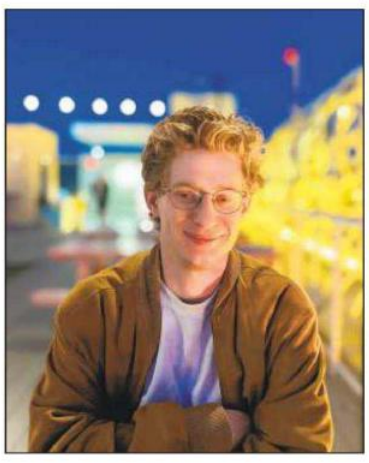
"These developments weren't just connected," Harris writes, "they were the same thing."

Intel and Hewlett-Packard revolutionized microchips, but they sold them to the U.S. military, which used them to guide the weapons of war it was deploying in Southeast Asia. To the students, activists and organizers of the so-called New Left, Silicon Valley was hard-wiring the war effort. It was an instrument of oppression, and it had blood on its hands.

All this set the stage for a revolt against Silicon Valley's core operators. Palo Alto radicals "singled out Stanford's industrial community and its role in the Vietnam War specifically and capitalist imperialism generally," Harris writes. "And once they got their collective finger pointed in the right place, they attacked."

That is, they really, quite physically, attacked the people and infrastructure of Silicon Valley that were connected to the war effort.

"The New Left tried to blow up more or less every computer they could get their hands on," Harris says. "And since both were likely to be found on college campuses, they got their hands on a bunch of them." (At the time, remember, there was no PC — computers were still room-sized machines.)



JULIA BURKE

HARRIS' bestseller "Palo Alto" is intensely critical of the Great Men of tech history.

> 'The New Left tried to blow up more or less every computer they could get their hands on.'
>
> — MALCOLM HARRIS, author of "Palo Alto: A History of California, Capitalism, and the World"

The reasoning was simple: These computers were making the war possible, both by providing the physical hardware for missile targeting systems and such, and by processing data used to plan combat missions. The war caused untold suffering and death; dismantle the war machine, hamper the war effort. So that's exactly what members of Stanford's leftist organizers, affiliated with groups such as Students for a Democratic Society, or SDS, tried to do.

First, they attempted peaceful tactics, such as a pressure campaign to halt the manufacture of napalm. It didn't work. So, taking their cues from the Black Panther Party, which was at the time perhaps the most powerful and influential radical left group in the nation, Stanford students — and even faculty — adopted direct and militant tactics. They published maps of the high-profile tech companies and research offices in Palo Alto that had won defense contracts or were otherwise involved in the war effort.

After the U.S. military bombed Cambodia, the student left escalated its tactics by targeting the very data processing infrastructure that was aiding the war effort.

They occupied the Applied Electronics Laboratory in Stanford. The AEL was an on-campus lab that was carrying out classified research for the war effort for the Pentagon, and students moved to shut it down. The occupation ended with a major concession: that classified military research no longer would be conducted on campus, and that its resources would be used instead for community purposes.

The victory helped inspire copycat actions across the country — and even more militant ones. Students and activists bombed or destroyed with acid computer labs at Boston University, Loyola University, Fresno State, the University of Kansas and the University of Wisconsin, among others, causing millions of dollars in damage. The explosion at the University of Wisconsin-Madison killed Robert Fassnacht, a postdoctoral researcher who, unbeknownst to the saboteurs, had been working late at night. IBM offices in San Jose and New York were bombed too.

With momentum at their backs, Stanford radicals decided to up the stakes and to occupy an even larger target: the Stanford Research Institute, or SRI, an off-campus research center that was overseen by the university's board of trustees and that had won enormous military contracts.

"Stanford is the nerve center of this complex, which now does over 10% of the Pentagon's research and development," activists wrote in a flier promoting the action. It lambasted the "socialized profits for the rich" generated by the SRI, and how it was used to "produce weapons to put down insurgents at home and in the Third World."

This flier had a map too, with the pertinent Big Tech buildings circled; Hewlett-Packard, Varian, SRI. It was labeled "How to Destroy an Empire."

It was a militant movement, and it was effective. It deterred investment in the war effort, made universities rethink their involvement with the Department of Defense, and contributed to the eventual withdrawal and policy reforms won by the broader anti-war movement.

So why don't we remember it much? Why do we remember the summer of love and communitarian counterculture and the Whole Earth Catalog — but not a violent struggle over the deployment of technology and those who profited from it?

Or as Harris puts it: "Why are we more likely to hear about the Yippies trying to levitate the Pentagon than SDS successfully bombing the Pentagon?"

One reason is pretty simple: It's a feel-bad story that complicates the narrative that has grown increasingly central to how we understand the history of how our technology was invented and produced.

"In Silicon Valley in particular, the clear anti-tech strategy of the anti-war movement is inconvenient for the predominant 'hippies invented the Internet' narrative," Harris says, "so many of the region's historians have shunted that part aside."

But the fear remains. Even if there's been nothing resembling organized threats on their well-being — guillotine memes on Twitter don't count — today's tech elites can certainly feel the resentment brewing.

Maybe that's why they're so sensitive to the suggestion that the government rescue of SVB was a "venture capitalist bailout" — that it was more special treatment for a constituency that drives Model Xs to their Tahoe ski chalets, that wants to reap the rewards of investing in world-changing technologies while bearing so little of the actual risk. Much of today's most visible tech set knows that lots of people don't like the inequality they represent, the preferential treatment they seem to enjoy, and the forces their companies and investments have set in motion.

They surely see Amazon workers and Uber drivers becoming increasingly agitated and organized, and openly pushing for change against gross inequalities. They see movements for gender equality and climate justice at Google and Microsoft.

They see the outrage over the fact that, like its forebears in Hewlett-Packard and earlier Silicon Valley companies, the newest iteration of Big Tech has become a major defense contractor too — Google, Amazon and Microsoft have vied to provide cloud, artificial intelligence and robotics to the military — and they see movements opposing it, as in the #TechWontBuildIt effort, where tech workers campaigned to reject such projects. (And hey, HP is *still* a defense contractor.) They see backlash against social media companies giving authoritarian regimes the tools to commit atrocities. If they knew to look, today's tech elites might see a lot of the same kindling that was laid on the ground in the combustible '60s.

"They think about this stuff constantly, but it's in the build-a-killer-robot-army way, not the Patagonia way," Harris says, referring to the former Patagonia billionaire Yvon Chouinard, who gave away his entire company as a means of combating the ills of extreme wealth.

In other words, they'd rather keep up the flame wars on social media and build survival bunkers in Montana than address the social ills their critics charge them with exacerbating.

"I think they are very, very worried," Harris says. If history is any precedent — perhaps they should be.

How the Fed rate increase affects your credit card bill

Carrying debt could get costlier after central bank's action. These tips may help.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Federal Reserve raised its key rate by another quarter of a point Wednesday, bringing it to the highest level in 15 years as part of an ongoing effort to ease inflation by making borrowing more expensive.

If you have money to save, you'll probably earn a bit more interest on it, but the increase will make it even costlier to borrow for homes, autos and other purchases.

The rate increase comes at a time when credit card debt is at record levels.

Here's what the increase means for your credit card bill and what you can do if you're carrying debt:

How does the Fed decision affect credit card debt?

The Federal Reserve doesn't directly dictate how much interest you pay on your credit card debt. But the Fed's rate is the basis for your bank's "prime rate." In combination with other factors, such as your credit score, the prime rate helps determine the annual percentage rate, or APR, on your credit card.

The latest increase will probably raise the APR on your credit card 0.25%. So, if you have a 20.4% rate, which is the average, according to Bankrate, it might increase to 20.65%.

If you don't carry a balance from month to month, the APR is less important.

But if, for example, you have a $4,000 credit balance and your interest rate is 20%, if you make a fixed payment of $110 per month, it would take you a bit under five years to pay off your credit card debt and you would pay roughly $2,200 in interest.

If your APR increases by a percentage point, paying off your balance would take two months longer and cost an additional $215.

How do I find out the APR on my credit card?

Courtney Alev, consumer financial advocate at Credit Karma, said that knowing the APR on your card is an important first step for anyone looking to get out of credit card debt.

"If you are carrying a balance month to month, that balance just got more expensive," she said.

To figure out your APR, you can log in to your online banking account, look at your financial statement, or call the number on the back of your credit card, Alev said.

What do I do if my APR is high?

After that, Alev and analyst Greg McBride of Bankrate advise signing up for a credit card that offers a zero percent interest or low-interest balance transfer promotion. These allow you to transfer your higher interest credit card debt to a low interest credit card, and some offer promotions up to 21 months.

Banks do often charge a flat fee, such as 3% of the balance transferred.

"It doesn't make sense to pay 20% in interest just to get 2% in cash back," McBride said. "Put your interest rate first and pursue rewards once you're debt-free."

Other debt payoff strategies include taking a low-rate personal loan as a form of consolidation and pursuing a debt management plan offered by a reputable nonprofit credit counseling agency such as Money Management International, he said.

How can I reduce my credit card debt?

If your income just covers your necessities, reducing credit card debt can be challenging.

Elena Pelayo, an educator at How Money Works, a financial literacy organization, recommends that even if you live paycheck to paycheck, you might want to add at least $10 above the minimum payment of your credit card with the highest interest rate.

And if you can afford it, she recommends paying 10% more than the minimum payment per month.

A well-known payment method is the "debt snowball" strategy, in which you pay your debts from smallest to largest, to build momentum and good habits.

Once the smaller debts are paid off and you have built a habit of paying off debt, the money you were using every month on those smaller debts can then go toward larger debts.

NerdWallet offers a calculator to use this method.

Another small way to tackle debt is the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's recommendation to "use cash when it's under $20" to avoid overspending on your credit card.

Seth Wenig Associated Press

TRADERS WORK the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Dec. 29. Recent bank failures have one reader curious about investments with a brokerage firm.

MONEY TALK

SIPC insurance could cover an investor if a brokerage fails

Protection doesn't apply for stock market drops, just if securities or funds are missing from an account.

By Liz Weston

Dear Liz: In light of the recent bank failures, I am wondering about the safety of investments with a brokerage firm. If the brokerage firm that I am using fails, do I stand to lose money even though I am invested in specific stocks or bonds? Does it make a difference if I have money in one of their branded money market funds?

Answer: Your brokerage probably is a member of the nonprofit Securities Investor Protection Corp., which protects against the loss of cash and securities when a covered brokerage fails. Accounts are insured up to $500,000 per customer, including a $250,000 limit for cash.

Covered securities include stocks, bonds, Treasurys, certificates of deposit, mutual funds and money market mutual funds. (Money market accounts and certificates of deposit are considered investments rather than cash under SIPC rules.)

The "per customer" limit is based on how the accounts are owned or titled. If you have a retirement account and a regular brokerage account, for example, separate $500,000 limits would apply to each.

SIPC coverage kicks in if a brokerage fails and securities or cash are missing from your account. You also have protection in case of unauthorized trading or theft from your accounts. SIPC insurance does not protect you against stock market drops or other declines in the value of your investments.

AARP can help with grandma's taxes

Dear Liz: My grandma is 78, divorced, and has not filed taxes in the last decade. I was wondering what she should do because she is head of the household and taking care of three adopted kids and needs help.

Answer: Please help connect your grandmother with AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, which provides free virtual and in-person tax help. You may be able to help her make an appointment and gather the documents she'll need to file those missing tax returns.

Your busy grandma may have procrastinated on filing her taxes because she worried about a tax bill.

But depending on her income and circumstances, she may have been eligible for refundable credits or other tax breaks that could have put money back in her pocket. (The tax law provides a three-year window to claim a refund, so she would already have lost out on refunds from the earlier years.)

If she does owe taxes and penalties, the IRS has payment plans that could help. A Tax-Aide volunteer will explain her options for paying any overdue bills.

The gift of a house leads to tax pitfalls

Dear Liz: I have a friend whose mom gave him and his sibling her house a few months before she died. They sold it right away. He got a 1099-S tax form and is confused about what the capital gains are. Technically there were none because they sold it right after she died.

Answer: Ouch. If your friend and his sibling had inherited the home after the mother died, you would be right — there would be little or no capital gains, because the house would receive a new value for tax purposes on the day the mother died. That "step up" to the current market value would mean no taxes would be owed on all the appreciation that occurred during the mother's lifetime.

But that favorable tax break happens only when property is transferred after death. Instead, the mother gave the house to her children during her lifetime. That means they got her tax basis as well — essentially what she paid for the house, plus any qualifying home improvements. They will owe capital gains tax on the difference between that basis and the net amount they realized from the sale (the sale proceeds minus any selling costs).

It's unfortunate the mother didn't consult a tax pro before transferring the home. Urge your friend to do so now because there may be ways to reduce (but not eliminate) the tax bill.

Liz Weston, Certified Financial Planner, is a personal finance columnist for NerdWallet. Questions may be sent to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon, No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or by using the "Contact" form at asklizweston.com.

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SAVINGS UPDATE

How to know if your money in the bank is safe

By Sabrina Karl

For anyone with savings in the bank, the recent headlines may have felt unsettling. In the space of three days, two banks failed, dominating much of the news cycle.

Part of why the news feels so big is that we rarely experience bank failures these days. In the three years following the 2008 financial crisis, almost 400 U.S. banks failed. That triggered the adoption of stricter banking regulations and as a result, we've witnessed a mere ten bank failures in the last six calendar years.

Still, the recent news makes many wonder if the money they're holding in the bank is safe. The good news is that for the vast majority of Americans, the answer is a resounding yes.

The safety net that protects most of us is the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or FDIC, an independent agency of the U.S. government. As its name states, it insures deposits, meaning if a bank where you hold funds in a savings, checking, money market, or CD account goes under, the federal government will reimburse you for any lost funds.

While the coverage is not unlimited, the FDIC insures up to $250,000 in deposits. Not only that, the coverage applies both per person and per institution. So for a couple with a joint account, they each receive $250,000 in coverage, for a combined $500,000.

In addition, you're covered up to $250,000 at every bank where you hold deposits. So even if you have more than $250,000 on account, you can easily protect yourself by spreading the funds across multiple banks.

Conveniently, the same $250,000 in coverage is extended to depositors at credit unions as well, through the National Credit Union Association, or NCUA. So a simple check that your institutions are either FDIC or NCUA members means your funds are protected.

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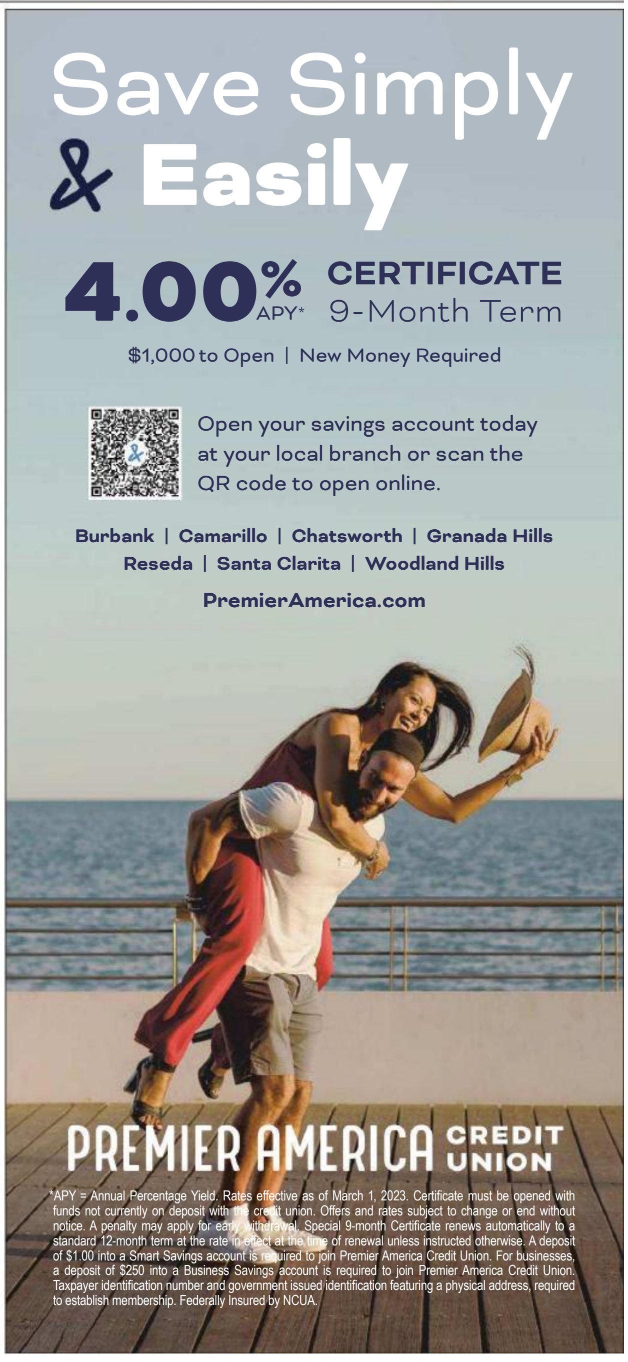

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ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

EXPERTS SHARE INSIGHTS ON LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW

The **Labor & Employment Law** panel is produced by the L.A. Times B2B Publishing team in conjunction with Davtyan Law Firm; Fisher & Phillips LLP; and Shegerian & Associates.

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With the many unprecedented operational changes and adjustments that businesses in every sector have had to make over the last three years, a whole new landscape has emerged in terms of labor and employment issues. This has left even the most seasoned human resources and C-suiters struggling to find answers to crucial questions.

Are the changes that have emerged trend-driven or here to stay? What should management be focusing on in terms of new standards and laws pertaining to employee relations?

To address these issues and concerns, as well as many other topics pertaining to labor and employment hot buttons, the Los Angeles Times B2B Publishing team turned to three uniquely knowledgeable experts for their thoughts and insights about the most important "need to know" trends and updates – and to get their assessments regarding the current state of labor legislation, the new rules of hiring and firing and the various trends that they have been observing in general.

Q: WHAT WERE THE MOST MEANINGFUL CHANGES TO LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW AND POLICY LAST YEAR?

A: Shegerian

In California, the minimum wage increased to $15 for employers with 26 or more employees and $14 per hour for companies with 25 or fewer employees, addressing the long and deep-rooted social and economic issue where the cost of living expenses have dramatically outpaced wage growth. Employee and consumer protections have had a significant contribution to making California one of the largest economies in the country. If we want our state to continue to thrive and attract top performers, we must ensure that we give everyone a chance to earn a fair wage.

A: Scherwin

By far the most meaningful legislative change was SB 1162 which created obligations for employers to post pay scales for positions in any job posting as well as the requirement that employers with 100 or more employees submit pay data on or before the second Wednesday of May 2023. Failure to comply carries with it significant fines so employers need to be ready.

Q: WHAT TRENDS ARE YOU SEEING WITH RESPECT TO PAID TIME OFF?

A: Davtyan

The State of California is regularly reviewing legislation regarding paid time off. Just in 2022, the California Family Rights Act (CFRA) expanded the parameters for sick leave to include certain non-family members. However, employers can additionally offer benefits like additional paid time off (PTO), sabbaticals, and unlimited PTO. Paid sabbaticals have become more prevalent over the past few years. It could look like receiving one month of consecutive paid time off or some companies even offer them every quarter; an employee may get two paid weeks off. It depends on the company.

A: Scherwin

Many businesses seem to be offering or at least exploring the idea of unlimited or not tracked time off. While this may be a good perk and may attract talent, employers should be mindful of a couple of pitfalls regarding unlimited time off. The biggest pitfall in my opinion is how unlimited paid time off interacts with paid sick leave under California and various local ordinances. If unlimited time off is combined with state-mandated sick leave, there will be issues when an employee is out or requests to be out for a significant amount of time since employers have very little follow-up they are permitted to do when an employee requests time off for covered sick leave.

Q: WHAT TYPES OF INCENTIVES ARE EMPLOYERS OFFERING TO POTENTIAL NEW HIRES?

A: Davtyan

The workforce is becoming increasingly competitive, and employers understand that they must offer attractive incentives to attract hardworking, loyal team members. There is a wide range that varies depending on the company setup and the job position. Options like flexible work schedules, on-site childcare, stipends for gym memberships and public transit, sign-on bonuses, paid vacation, and unlimited vacation are some common perks that employers may offer to potential new hires. Hiring and training a new employee takes extensive resources, and it is worth investing in your team to increase retention.

> ***"Employers with remote or hybrid employees need to make sure they have policies in place for technology, reimbursements, and confidentiality."***
>
> – Todd B. Scherwin

Q: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE CURRENT CLIMATE FOR EMPLOYEE WHISTLEBLOWERS IN 2023?

A: Shegerian

2023 is a continually improving and favorable climate for employee whistleblowers in California. In 2022, the California Supreme Court and Appellate Courts broadly construed whistleblower provisions and retaliation protections in a number of cases. Coupled with a more just and protected legal environment, juries also have weighed in on whistleblowers' societal value, as a bulwark against illicit and or dangerous conduct. In *Rudnicki v. Farmers*, a Los Angeles jury awarded a whistleblower $155.4 million after showing that his role as a potential witness in a sex bias class action resulted in retaliation against him and ultimately his firing. The best protection for employers against these types of awards is to avoid illegal conduct altogether and encourage a system where such instances are not covered up but instead brought to light as lessons of prevention. In the long run, both companies and societies will benefit.

Q: AS WE MOVE DEEPER INTO 2023, WHAT IS THE TOP THING THAT CALIFORNIA EMPLOYERS SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON NOW FROM A COMPLIANCE PERSPECTIVE?

A: Scherwin

In terms of compliance, it continues to be following the labor code when it comes to overtime, meal periods, rest periods, and pay stubs. These claims continue to be devastating to employers who are not strict in enforcement. Employers must ensure that not only their employees understand these rules but also that management appreciates the nuances and potential pitfalls that non-compliance creates.

Q: HOW DO YOU ADVISE EMPLOYERS WANTING TO DO A BETTER JOB WITH DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION POLICIES?

A: Shegerian

More than ever, both consumers and potential employees are scrutinizing business diversity practices and programs. Diversity and inclusion programs have become the baseline for organization employment practices, and virtue signaling is quickly recognized. Employers seeking to attract top talent and customers must prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion policies through unique programs fit to match their industry. A one-size-fits-all program reveals a program's inferiority to the bottom line. Employers must also recognize that the bottom line can be fundamentally improved through novel diversity programs through diverse thought and a widened, loyal customer base.

Q: WHAT SHOULD EMPLOYERS CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING WHETHER TO HAVE A REMOTE, HYBRID OR IN-PERSON WORKPLACE?

A: Scherwin

First and foremost, employers with remote or hybrid employees need to make sure they have policies in place for technology, reimbursements, and confidentiality. The biggest of these three issues in my opinion is reimbursements. Specifically, employers need to determine whether or not an employee is entitled to reimbursement for use of equipment or utilities while not working in the office. From a labor and employment perspective, these claims are the most prevalent in the new world of remote or hybrid work.

Q: WHICH PAY PRACTICES ARE MOST LIKELY TO RESULT IN A COMPANY BEING SUED IN A WAGE-HOUR CLASS ACTION?

A: Davtyan

Not compensating employees properly or not allowing them proper break times can certainly lead to a lawsuit. If an employee isn't receiving proper lunch and rest breaks, the employer is abusing the break laws in California. If an employer doesn't pay appropriate overtime wages, that can also result in legal action against the company. Off-the-clock work is a common problem in workplaces and can certainly cause employers to be sued in a class-action case. It's important that employees keep track of and document their time worked so that they can be adequately paid. Another important practice is ensuring that employees are fully reimbursed for all work-related expenses. It's critical to have a system in place for employees to record and report any work-related expenses to ensure that they are properly reimbursed, no matter how small the amount is.

> ***Employee and consumer protections have had a significant contribution to making California one of the largest economies in the country."***
>
> – Carney R. Shegerian

Q: WHAT TRENDS ARE YOU SEEING RELATED TO ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS IN THE EMPLOYMENT CONTEXT?

A: Scherwin

For California employers, especially with the recent decision from the 9th circuit striking down AB 51, there is certainly a trend of increasingly requiring arbitration agreements for employees. I expect that in the coming months/years, because arbitration agreements can be required (not voluntary), more and more employers in California will mandate employees to sign arbitration agreements.

> ***The workforce is becoming increasingly competitive, and employers understand that they must offer attractive incentives to attract hardworking, loyal team members."***
>
> – Emil Davtyan

A: Shegerian

A 9th Circuit Court of Appeals panel recently ruled that California's bill prohibiting employers from requiring job applicants and workers to sign arbitration policies was preempted by the Federal Arbitration Act. While this ruling was a blow to both employee rights and the fundamental American right to a jury trial, Congress, in 2022, notably carved out in an exception for sexual harassment and sexual assault cases by passing a bill guaranteeing victims of such workplace harassment the right to pursue lawsuits in court. While arbitration can be helpful for disputes where both parties are entities with comparable resources, mandatory arbitration, particularly in the employment and consumer context, serves to exacerbate inequity, weaken constitutional rights, inhibit access to justice, and punish the wronged.

Q: FROM AN EMPLOYEE PERSPECTIVE, WHAT IS THE FIRST STEP AN EMPLOYEE SHOULD TAKE IF THEY FEEL THEY ARE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST?

A: Davtyan

California takes discrimination very seriously and there are many laws in place to protect employees. Employees have rights against workplace discrimination based on their national origin, age, sex, or any other protected characteristics. If an employee is experiencing discrimination in the workplace, a good first step may be to send an email to their Human Resources department and let them know about the details of the situation. It will also be beneficial to collect supporting evidence of discrimination in the workplace. This can be a text message, voicemail, email, and/or the company's policies. Proving discrimination in the workplace can be difficult, so we highly recommend consulting with an employment lawyer to discuss the best next steps.

Q: HOW DOES THE CALIFORNIA WARN ACT HELP EMPLOYEES THAT HAVE BEEN TERMINATED?

A: Shegerian

The California WARN Act is a state law that requires covered employers to provide employees with at least 60 days' notice before implementing a mass layoff. Its purpose is to protect employees who have been laid off or terminated, due to a covered event, by providing advance notices for employees to prepare for their job loss and to seek new employment. If an employer violates the California WARN Act by failing to provide the required notice, affected employees may be entitled to receive back pay and benefits for up to 60 days. Employees who have been terminated in violation of the California WARN Act may also have other legal claims, such as claims for wrongful termination, discrimination, or retaliation. These claims can provide additional remedies for damages for lost wages, emotional distress, or other harm caused by the termination.

Q: HOW DO YOU ADVISE YOUR CORPORATE CLIENTS WHEN IT COMES TO DEALING WITH ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS (DISABILITY, RELIGIOUS, ETC.)?

A: Scherwin

Accommodation requests are tricky because the law is gray when it comes to what constitutes a reasonable accommodation or undue hardship. Businesses must ensure to document the process of reasonable accommodation every step of the way and be prepared to offer alternatives and suggestions to employees who need a religious or medical accommodation. Employers should remember not to give up on the process too early and give employees the opportunity to participate/respond.

Q: WHAT IMPACT DOES CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE 201 HAVE ON EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS?

A: Davtyan

California Labor Code 201 states that an employer must pay all wages to an employee upon the separation of employment. This includes both regular pay and any accrued vacation time. Payment is generally due immediately upon termination or within 72 hours of quitting. This means it takes some planning on the employer's part to make sure that they have payment ready to go when the termination happens. They can pay an employee via direct deposit. However, the majority of the time, it is recommended to have a manual check ready at the time of separation to be given to the employee. Employers are subject to a waiting time penalty (worth up to 30 days) if they do not pay the employee timely at the time of separation. This is a penalty payment in addition to all final wages owed.

Los Angeles Times B2B PUBLISHING

This supplement was produced by LA Times B2B Publishing. It did not involve the editorial or reporting staffs of the Los Angeles Times. Contact us with comments or questions at **b2bpublishing@latimes.com**.

OPINION

EDITORIALS

Presumed guilty! The toxic cost of money bail

It betrays a host of fundamental American values, including the presumption of innocence.

For all the death, misery and havoc that COVID-19 inflicted during its first three years, the pandemic did bring one short-lived benefit to the criminal justice system, at least in Los Angeles County. It led judges to eliminate money bail for many people accused of low-level crimes.

Their immediate goal was to combat transmission of the disease in L.A. County jails, where conditions are overcrowded and people are shuffled in and out at a rapid pace, leading them to bring the infection back to their families and neighborhoods. Its side benefit was to force L.A., for once, to live out fundamental but long-ignored principles, like the presumption of innocence, and a criminal system blind to wealth or poverty.

L.A.'s brief period of more perfect justice ended last year when the Los Angeles Superior Court rescinded its emergency zero-dollar bail policy.

Last November, several people who were stuck in jail because they couldn't pay bail, along with some L.A. County taxpayers who foot the bill for the costly and wasteful practice of locking up people before trial, sued on behalf of others similarly aggrieved. In a hearing that began last week, they presented their case for immediately bringing back zero-dollar bail, and making it permanent. The hearing in the case, Urquidi vs. City of Los Angeles, continues Monday.

The demand for zero-dollar bail is righteous and should be granted.

Historically, the purpose of bail was to induce the accused to show up for trial (if they did, they got back all the money they deposited with the court). The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that bail can also be used to keep witnesses and others safe but that pretrial release should be the norm.

Around the nation, the debate over money bail has become so politicized that the facts are often obscured. For example, L.A.'s zero-dollar bail program did not cover violent crimes, like armed robbery. It did not prevent judges from ordering high-risk defendants to be held in jail without bail. Examples of high rearrest rates of people released on zero-dollar bail, as reported by the Yolo County district attorney, for instance, are countered by the experience of other counties, including L.A. Rearrest rates vary greatly depending on whether courts or counties provide pretrial services, like simple reminders to return to court on the proper date.

The suit focuses on one widely misunderstood part of the money bail system: bail schedules. These are preset rate sheets for people accused of crimes, and although a committee of judges sets the rates — for example, $20,000 for forgery — the schedules are administered by police.

Here's how it works. An officer arrests a person on suspicion of committing forgery. At the station, police consult the bail schedule and find the $20,000 rate that the suspect must pay in order to be released before trial. They direct the suspect to a list of phone numbers for bail bond agents who will lend the money for a fee, usually 10% of the bond, or in this case, $2,000. If the suspect can come up with the fee, he can go home and prepare his defense, but he will never get the $2,000 fee back. It's effectively a punishment — not for being convicted, because there has been no conviction. It's a penalty merely for being arrested.

If he doesn't have the bail money, the suspect goes to jail. He will wait there for two to five days until he's brought before a judge, is formally charged, perhaps gets a court-appointed lawyer and can finally argue that he's safe to be released because of his ties to the community and his job. But he's been in jail and missed work so he may well lose his job. He was away from his family. He has been confined to unsafe and miserable conditions, which is traumatizing. Until the hearing, even the prosecutor didn't know of his case and couldn't seek dismissal if it was a bad arrest. Once again, it's a punishment for being accused and, in this case, for being poor.

It's not like in the TV shows in which the defendant immediately appears before a judge. L.A. has no bail magistrates at police stations, no night courts, no opportunity to avoid either a steep fine for being accused, or a jail term of several days handed down not by a judge but by the arresting officer.

The presumption of innocence is an ancient principle, but in Los Angeles — in fact, in much of California and around the nation — it is little more than a slogan. People who are arrested are treated as if they were guilty, long before they have any opportunity to present their defense. They are fined, jailed or both, without a defense lawyer, without even a prosecutor, without a judge.

People with money can buy their way out. Whether we call this classism or make up a word like wealthism, it's a close cousin to racism, given the wealth gap between white people and people of color.

This wealth-based system of pretrial detention is entirely inconsistent with the principle of equal justice under law. Zero-dollar bail, prudently administered, would be a step toward repairing the injustices that characterize much of the criminal system.

An impressive first 100 days

She didn't end homelessness yet, but the mayor did get more than 1,000 people temporarily housed.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass came into office determined to tackle homelessness at full speed. She declared an emergency her first day on the job, ordered city agencies to fast-track reviews of affordable housing projects and launched Inside Safe, an ambitious initiative to move people from encampments into motels and hotels, then start them down a path to permanent housing.

As of last week, when she marked her 100th day as mayor, she had some impressive statistics to show. More than 1,000 homeless people, mostly from 13 encampments, have been moved into temporary housing, she says, and several homeless housing projects have been expedited.

Irfan Khan Los Angeles Times

MAYOR KAREN BASS chats with a homeless person on Feb. 16.

The Inside Safe initiative has now made its way from the Westside to skid row and into South L.A. with the goal to reach across the whole city. In one case, Bass prioritized a large Venice encampment to forestall an enforcement action. "I wanted to demonstrate to the neighbors that there was a way we could deal with this without a law enforcement effort," she told The Times Editorial Board last week.

There's no question, after Bass got an earful on the campaign trail from residents angry over homeless encampments, that Inside Safe has been deployed into areas where residents seemed most aggrieved.

"We are trying to address the encampments where people are suffering the most who are both housed and unhoused," she said. (Of course, it's homeless people who are suffering. Housed people are typically just annoyed to see encampments on sidewalks.)

She says this approach is about housing people and showing residents that homeless people will accept such help when it is offered. "When neighbors are disillusioned and angry … and they haven't seen a fundamental difference, then they say, 'Forget it, arrest these people, take these people away, they're all there because they choose to be there because they're all strung out on meth.' So what I've been trying to do over 100 days is really dispel that myth."

Now the work gets even harder. It's good to keep putting people in motels and hotels on a temporary basis. But there has been some shuffling of people from one motel to another — due to unlivable conditions (a roach infestation in one motel) and inadequate provision of services — which is unacceptable. People need to be able to settle in and focus on working with their case managers on getting into permanent housing.

More important, Bass needs to find more permanent housing faster. She says 62 people have moved through the Inside Safe program into permanent housing, and she knows that's not enough. Bass must supply more housing through homeless housing projects coming online, through master leasing hotels or apartment buildings and through vouchers that people can use for rent on the open market — and finding an apartment in Los Angeles is hard for anyone, let alone a homeless person with a voucher worth a limited amount of money.

The point is: Housing is what makes homeless people no longer homeless. And rent on a small apartment is cheaper than putting people up in motels, as many service providers and homeless advocates say. So far, the City Council has shown Bass a lot of goodwill by dedicating $50 million to Inside Safe. And Bass says she has state funds at her disposal as well. But as more people move into motels and hotels, this effort will get costlier. By the 2022 count, there are 42,000 homeless people in the city.

Va Lecia Adams Kellum, the new head of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, estimates the city is paying on average $100 a night for a motel room. That comes out to $3,000 a month, and doesn't include food.

Bass says the city is helping supply more housing navigators, the people hired to help homeless individuals find available housing. And she is expecting to be able to streamline the process by which homeless people are selected and vetted for permanent housing to make the process go faster. All of that should help.

Among the rental subsidies the city has been using are a few thousand short-term rental vouchers that were funded through emergency COVID federal dollars. That funding source stops in the fall. Bass needs to have a plan so that when the rental subsidies end, people with those vouchers don't end up with no place to live.

Placing people in housing will be more challenging than placing people in motels and hotels — and that hasn't been particularly easy. But if Bass keeps up the momentum she has demonstrated so far, then maybe the city really can help the poorest of the poor get the housing they deserve.

LETTERS

Selcuk Acar Anadolu Agency

SUPPORTERS of former President Trump rally in front of Trump Tower in New York during the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 17.

It's about reality, not respect

Re "How to stop the polarization that divides Americans," Opinion, March 20

In addressing political polarization, columnist Jean Guerrero recommends that we have "more faith in our ability to connect with the other." The implication is that chasms can be bridged between Democrats and Republicans. "The only other options," she writes, "are national divorce or civil war."

Guerrero also acknowledges, "The two sides are not equally situated — Republicans have moved farther to the right than Democrats have to the left, and right-wing extremists are the most likely to embrace violence."

She cites other differences, but fails to point out the biggest: The former president attempted to overthrow the 2020 election, and he still has a lot of support. Many members of Congress, all Republicans, voted against certifying President Biden's victory. Just last month, a Republican lawmaker actually proposed a national divorce.

As there is no common ground between arsonists and firefighters, a constructive conversation is not possible between those who value democracy, the Constitution and the rule of law, and those who do not.

Guerrero's aspiration is noble, but her effort will fail as long as members of one tribe do not accept the principles on which the nation is governed.

Mike Diehl
Glendale

In Guerrero's column, I found a long discussion about polarization but no solution other than the obvious — we all need to be more open-minded and tolerant.

Let me suggest a solution:

How about eliminating the ability for voters to register with a political party?

We create the polarization ourselves by self-declaration. We should not think of ourselves as a Democrat or a Republican. We are free to vote progressively or conservatively on any issue or candidate.

Of course, Congress would never allow this because we all would be thinking more about the election issues than what political party we subscribe to.

Dwight Abbott
Palos Verdes Estates

Guerrero acknowledges that "right-wing extremists are the most likely to embrace violence."

Most likely? According to the Anti-Defamation League, in 2022 100% of extremism-tied murders were committed by right-wing extremists.

Don't ask me to "see them as equals."

Cynthia Carle
Los Angeles

::

I applaud the effort by Guerrero to reverse polarity on the Democratic and Republican acrimony machine.

I cannot say how this wild ride of Mr. Toad's got started, but I know it is a lot harder getting off than it was getting on. Thanks to Guerrero for trying to light the path away from this collision that is taking place in our society.

Paul Skophammer
Malibu

But I don't want to be under God

Re "Is reciting the Pledge of Allegiance just an empty ritual?" Opinion, March 20

Thanks to Nicholas Goldberg for addressing an issue that I contended with throughout my years in public school. As a lifelong atheist, I have always objected to forced public displays of religious belief.

The words "under God" should be removed from the pledge. And, as Goldberg argues, perhaps we should remove the entire pledge and replace it with an ode to the Bill of Rights.

Frances Segal
Rancho Mission Viejo

::

Goldberg could not be more wrong about the Pledge of Allegiance. I have always interpreted "one nation, under God," to mean "one nation, under a power greater than our individual selves." This applies to everyone, regardless of faith or lack thereof.

We must value the national rituals that bind us together. Reciting the pledge and singing the national anthem are the opposite of performative, empty symbolism — because without them we're a nation fractured into millions of myopic, quarrelsome individuals nursing their personal grievances.

I'm not sure what will put us back together, but it sure doesn't help to attack reminders like the pledge that this nation, with so much progress still to be made, remains something larger and better than any of us.

Let's stress our commonalities and celebrate our country, which allows for broad criticism while striving always to become better.

Ann Bowman
Santa Monica

::

During my tenure as a teacher in the Fontana Unified School District, I taught several students who did not recite the pledge due to their Jehovah's Witnesses faith. The students would stand, would not place their hand over their heart, and remain silent.

The Supreme Court decision in the 1943 case West Virginia State Board of Education vs. Barnette, which Goldberg cites, centered on Jehovah's Witnesses. As a result, my students' right not to recite the pledge was protected.

Rather than question my students' loyalty to the U.S., I welcomed the chance for my classroom to serve as a laboratory where daily successful experiments were conducted protecting my Jehovah's Witnesses students' rights. In the process, students of other faiths exercised their rights and observed how the Constitution should work.

Emilio Alvarez Jr.
Fontana

::

Goldberg writes, "As a nonbelieving American, I'm put off, to say the least, by the reference to God in the pledge."

As a believing American — a born-again Christian — I refuse to pledge allegiance to the flag of a temporal nation because my primary allegiance is to the Lord Jesus Christ.

While I am willing to stand with my fellow Americans as they recite this litany of performance patriotism, I choose to remain silent because such a pledge is contradictory to my Christian faith.

Emery J. Cummins
San Diego

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Los Angeles Times
FOUNDED DECEMBER 4, 1881
A California Times Publication

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ERALDO PERES Associated Press

JAIR BOLSONARO, then president of Brazil, poses with soldiers during annual military exercises in Formosa in 2021. Latin America has a history of civilian-military power struggles that is reemerging as elected leaders lean on the armed forces.

Latin American democracies are facing a threat from within

From Mexico to Brazil, elected officials are inviting militaries back into politics and government

By Will Freeman and Beatriz Rey

THIRTY YEARS AGO, Latin America's nascent democracies did what had once seemed impossible: They confined the militaries that had regularly overthrown them to their barracks.

But now presidents from Mexico to Brazil are coaxing the generals back out — and undermining their democracies in the process. By invitation of elected leaders, militaries across the region are reemerging as a political force: resolving election disputes, putting down protests and taking top government jobs.

In contrast to the region's Cold War-era militaries, modern Latin American armed forces aren't governing directly. Often, they're reluctantly heeding civilian leaders' calls to wade into politics and governance. But their resurgence nevertheless threatens democracies already beset by election deniers, economic hardship and civil unrest.

Less than a half-century ago, military rule was the norm in Latin America. From Brazil's 1964 military coup until the fall of the Berlin Wall, generals habitually ousted elected presidents and formed authoritarian juntas, often with U.S. support and in the name of fighting communism. By 1977, repressive military regimes ruled all but four countries in the region.

But by the 1990s, with the lone exception of Cuba, Latin America had embraced democracy. Coup attempts dwindled as military officers accepted civilian rule. In Argentina, junta leaders faced trial. In Chile and Guatemala, where militaries clung to control of some government agencies and offices, elected leaders slowly but surely reformed them. It was a rare and remarkable story of democratic progress in a region with a long history of uncertain rule of law.

But once militaries are firmly under civilian control, it's up to civilians to manage them responsibly. Most of Latin America's elected leaders failed that test.

Driven by a combination of pragmatism and opportunism, politicians leveraged military forces to bolster their governments as de facto police forces, state bureaucracies and electoral tribunals. This trend started slowly but quickly gained steam.

Facing governance challenges ranging from rising crime to climate-accelerated natural disasters, elected governments leaned on their armed forces to perform tasks that weaker state institutions couldn't. Militaries' competence, loyalty and public trust across the region — second only to the church's — made them useful to political leaders.

During the 2000s, Latin American leaders used professional soldiers in place of ill-equipped local police forces, putting armies in charge of fighting crime.

In the 2010s, as the region's economies slowed to a crawl, democracies got messier. Protests and election disputes proliferated, and elected leaders frequently called in the military for backup. The presidents of Chile and Ecuador used troops to enforce curfews and restore order after uprisings in 2019. In Venezuela, Honduras, Nicaragua and, most recently, Peru, troops cracked down on protesters with lethal force.

Since the onset of the pandemic, Latin American governments have dispatched militaries to produce masks in Argentina, enforce stay-at-home orders in Chile and cajole people into quarantine centers in El Salvador.

The region's politicians have also increasingly enlisted militaries as unofficial political referees. Honduras' military, at the urging of its Congress, forced then-President Manuel Zelaya into exile in 2009. Bolivia's military successfully "suggested" President Evo Morales leave office as antigovernment protests raged in 2019. And El Salvador's populist president, Nayib Bukele, pushed his 2020 agenda through the legislature by filling its halls with gun-toting troops.

Political opportunism has been another driving factor. As the region's traditional political parties broke down, power-hungry presidents turned to the military in their stead. The late Venezuelan autocrat Hugo Chávez, a former military officer, took the tactic furthest, filling the government with generals.

Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, himself a former army captain, and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador have both taken pages from his playbook. Bolsonaro, who staffed a third of his Cabinet with military figures, roped top brass into a fruitless hunt for evidence of fraud in last year's election. López Obrador, who once promised to rein in the military, has instead given its officers roles in security, infrastructure and tourism while creating a new, military-staffed National Guard.

While the risk to Latin American democracy once came from from generals disobeying orders, it now comes from their tendency to follow them. Today's generals don't want to replace civilian governments. They're more focused on safeguarding privileges, budgets and authority.

That doesn't mean these democracies are safe. Although it's unlikely that other militaries in the region will go as far as Venezuela's by fusing with an autocratic ruling party, the militarization of governance and politics is already taking a toll on democracies' health in a few ways.

First, militarization stifles critical voices in civil society even when it's not undermining election integrity. Militaries' capacity for secrecy and intimidation serve them well on the battlefield but don't mix with healthy democratic politics. Mexican journalists recently revealed that military officials had accessed a reporter's private messages by infecting his phone with spyware, the latest in a string of similar cases exposed since 2017. After the Peruvian armed forces killed 10 protesters and injured scores more in December, demonstrations began to decline.

Militarizing aspects of governance that are properly left to civilians can also lead to mismanagement, corruption and waste. After the military took over Venezuela's state-run oil company, its output nosedived. Military officials made costly mistakes as they rolled out Brazil's pandemic response, sending some 78,000 vaccine doses to the wrong state; they did no better as an ad hoc police force tasked with halting the destruction of the Amazon. And in Mexico, López Obrador's decision to put the military in charge of building and operating infrastructure shields government contracts from scrutiny.

Finally, militaries sometimes protect their own from accountability. While Colombia convicted 800 soldiers and put 16 generals under investigation for extrajudicial executions between 2002 and 2008, Mexico's Supreme Court appears to have put all major rulings affecting the military on hold since López Obrador took office. Under a 2017 law, Brazil allows officers accused of abusing civilians to face trial in special military courts.

Brazil's recently elected president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, offers hope for rolling back militaries' role in government. Since his inauguration in January, he has replaced military figures with civilians in more than 100 government posts. A general who vocally opposes an activist military, Tomás Paiva, became the army's top commander.

At the same time, Lula is carefully building bridges to avoid alienating the generals. Ten years ago, that might not have been necessary. Today it's a must — and a testament to how much ground Latin America's democracies have lost.

WILL FREEMAN is a fellow for Latin America studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. BEATRIZ REY is a senior researcher at the State University of Rio de Janeiro.

Relax, candy lovers. No one is trying to ban Skittles. Not exactly

A California lawmaker wants to prohibit ingredients that some believe are toxic, especially for kids.

ROBIN ABCARIAN

SCRATCH THE surface of a Skittles and, wow, you will find so much more than a chewy fruit-flavored sugar bomb. The shiny candy is a bit like a Rorschach test; you see what you want to see in those rainbow-colored morsels.

In 2016, for example, Donald Trump Jr. looked at a bowl of Skittles and saw suicide bombers. I'm not making this up.

Trump Jr. tweeted a photo of a bowl of Skittles with the incomparably insensitive message, "If I had a bowl of Skittles and I told you just three would kill you, would you take a handful? That's our Syrian refugee problem."

The unamused included the image's photographer, a former refugee who said his shot was used without permission, and Mars Wrigley, the candy giant responsible for making most of the sugary snacks that keep pediatric dentists in business.

"Skittles are candy. Refugees are people," said a Mars Wrigley spokeswoman. "We will respectfully refrain from further commentary as anything we say could be misinterpreted as marketing."

That same year, during Pride Month (and every June since), Skittles began temporarily changing the color of its candies to white, as a gesture of support for LGBTQ rights.

"Only one rainbow matters during Pride," the company has written on its packages. Of course, this did upset some folks, who thought changing the candies from rainbow-colored to white was racist. (And, yes, I did chuckle as I typed that.)

Once again, Skittles finds itself in the crosshairs. Well, Skittles and a whole bunch of other snacks Americans — especially kids — love to consume.

Many processed food products, it turns out, contain one or some of five possibly toxic ingredients that California Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel, a Democrat from Encino, is proposing that the state outlaw. If the bill, which is scheduled to be heard in committee in April, becomes law, California would be the first state to ban these ingredients by banning foods that contain them.

"Californians shouldn't have to worry that the food they buy in their neighborhood grocery store might be full of dangerous additives or toxic chemicals," Gabriel said last month in a news release announcing the proposed ban. "This bill will correct for a concerning lack of federal oversight and help protect our kids, public health, and the safety of our food supply."

The targeted ingredients have been linked to health issues, including hyperactivity in children, reproductive problems, decreased immune response and an increased risk of cancer.

The offending chemicals, all of which are deemed safe to consume, within limits, by the Food and Drug Administration, are red dye No. 3, titanium dioxide, potassium bromate, brominated vegetable oil and propyl paraben. They make food last longer, taste better or look better, and they're found in Nerds, Hot Tamales, Peeps, cake icing and strawberry-flavored drinks such as Nesquik, PediaSure, Ensure and Yoohoo, among other products.

Oddly enough, as many food experts have pointed out, the FDA banned red dye No. 3 from cosmetics all the way back in 1990. This raises the question: Why is it OK to eat it if it's not OK to brush it on your cheekbones?

From what I can tell, this bizarre state of affairs seems to be the result of bureaucratic inertia.

The FDA approved the use of red dye No. 3 in food and supplements back in 1931, long before there were studies showing that it could cause cancer in laboratory rats in very high doses. (Which, of course, does not necessarily mean it has the same effect in human beings.)

In 1990, when the agency finally did have evidence about the link between the dye and cancer in animals, it banned red dye No. 3 from all cosmetics.

"But at that point," according to Consumer Reports, "the color was already on a permanently approved list for food."

"In 32 years, there's millions and millions of children who have been exposed to this chemical who didn't need to be," Thomas Galligan, a food scientist at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, told the publication.

Unsurprisingly, food manufacturers have fired back at the California proposal.

The Consumer Brands Assn., which used to go by the name Grocery Manufacturers Assn., sent a letter in opposition. It accused lawmakers of attempting to preempt the federal and state regulatory agencies whose job it is to ensure the safety of the food supply.

"All five of these additives have been thoroughly reviewed by the federal and state systems and many international scientific bodies and continue to be deemed safe," it wrote.

Well, not exactly.

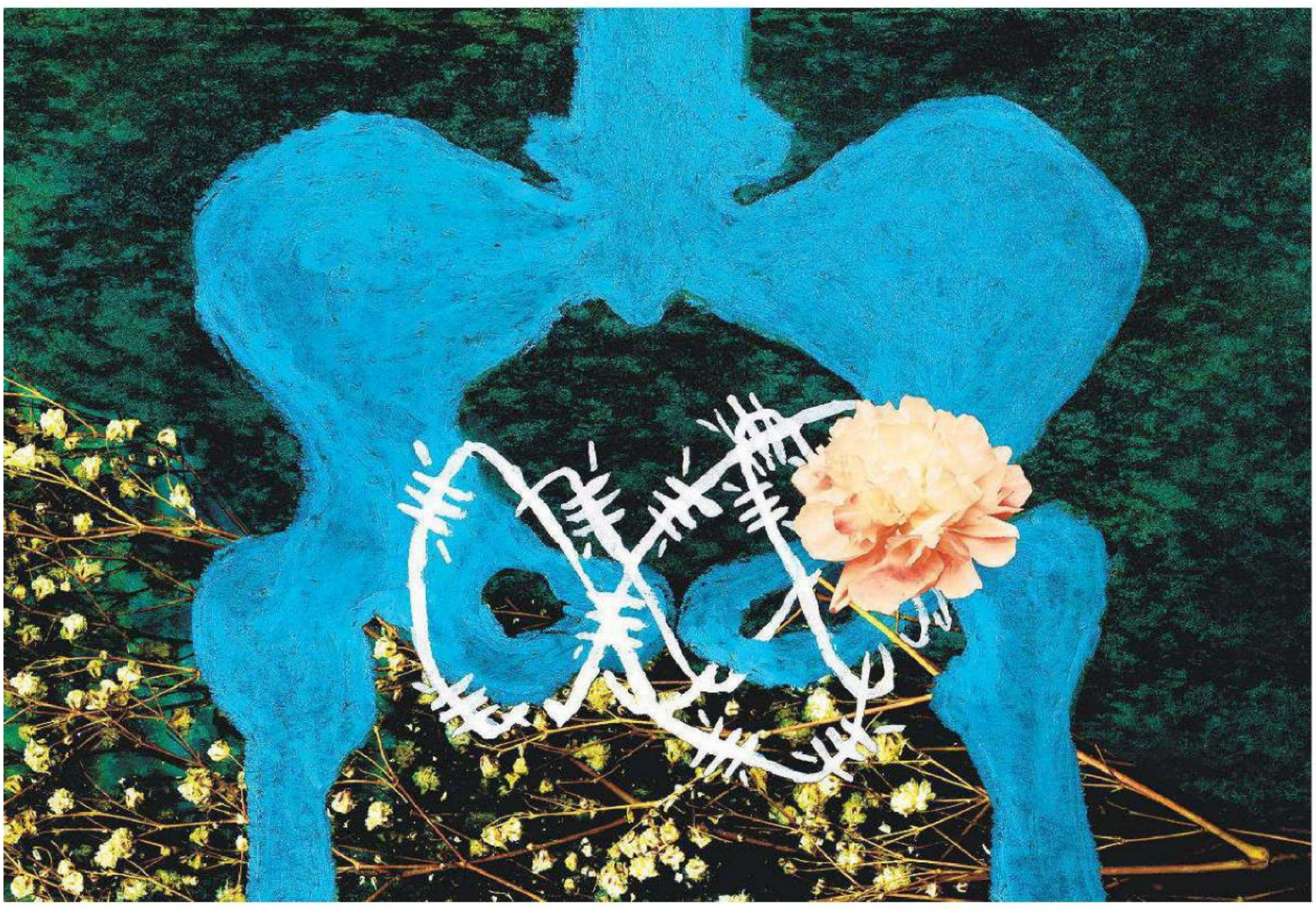
The European Union has already banned these ingredients and many others that continue to be used in American food. In order to keep peddling their wares in European countries, food-processing companies have reformulated their products to comply.

"I love Skittles. I love Wild Berry Skittles. I eat them all the time," Gabriel told The Times last week. "I would vote against a bill to ban Skittles. What we're really trying to get them to do is to change their recipes. All of these are nonessential ingredients."

So relax, Skittles fans. Nobody is trying to ban your favorite snack.

As the parent of a sugar-crazed middle schooler, though, I kind of wish they would.

@RobinKAbcarian



CANDICE EVERS For The Times

I had crushing pain with pregnancy. Why didn't my doctor listen?

Many physicians, even women of color, assumed suffering was my body's natural state

By Tiphanie Yanique

WHEN I WAS pregnant with my second child, the pain in my pelvis was extraordinary.

"It's normal," my white obstetrician said. I told her I had never felt such pain. She instructed me to walk with small steps, "like a geisha."

When giving birth, I again said that something was wrong. My pubic bone felt broken. The same obstetrician assured me that the pain I was feeling was normal. I told her that a nurse had recommended, during an earlier visit, that I labor on my side because of a possible pubic rupture. The doctor asked me to show her what I meant, but I couldn't demonstrate while in active labor. So she directed me to my back, the way she had been trained. After my baby arrived, I became paralyzed from the waist down for some minutes. Then the pain crushed into my hips, and I began to scream.

The doctor never acknowledged that she hadn't listened to me or that her own training had failed me. She prescribed physical therapy and a specialist to treat my split pubic bone. That I had felt broken, and likely was, even before labor, was brushed off as merely what happens to women's bodies.

As a Black woman, I'm accustomed to my pain not being taken seriously by doctors. A majority of Black Americans report having negative healthcare experiences, including "having to speak up to get proper care and being treated with less respect than other patients," according to a Pew study. Black women are also three times more likely than white women to die from a pregnancy-related cause. And Black patients report that their pain is undertreated.

In my experience, however, the solution isn't only about having a Black physician. Even Black women, raised and educated in this society, can assume our bodies should be sick or broken. Without enough counternarratives, Black people can easily internalize racism; women can easily internalize misogyny.

As a novelist, I understand how storytelling can influence people's perceptions. My own reproductive health treatment has shown me that women's true stories of pain are being neglected by our medical providers because of the problematic ways our society views women's pain. We need to be braver in telling these stories, and humbler in taking them seriously.

From the time a girl gets her period, she's told to toughen up and bear it. As I've moved through my reproductive years, not much feels like it's changed.

After having my third child, I decided to go on an intrauterine device, or IUD, a form of birth control that's a little hook made of bendy wire. Then came the pain.

I showed my new gynecologist the place in the corner of my hip where it hurt, which started along with spotting blood after I had sex. I'd thought the IUD got jostled around.

She insisted that it wasn't the IUD, and that sex can cause pain and bleeding. But that had never happened to me.

"Then you've been lucky. It's just your body."

This gynecologist was a Black woman. And yet here I was again. She assumed pain to be my body's natural and acceptable state. Was that what she had been taught to accept for her own body? I asked her to replace the IUD, but she insisted I wait it out.

I switched physicians. I told the new doctor: Take out the IUD and put in a new one. I don't know what her training or personal life had taught her, but I know she was a wife and mother. When she took the IUD out, she told me it was broken — bent and sideways and bloody. It had been scraping me.

It took an *exceptionally* good doctor, who happened to be white, to overcome a bias that even Black female doctors had about my body. My previous doctors, white, Black, of color, weren't necessarily bad doctors. They were relying on what their training, medical and societal, had led them to believe and taught them to do.

Because my new gynecologist seemed like she was listening to me, I stopped her before she put in the new IUD. "What if I have pain and bleeding again?"

She pushed back from the examination table and looked me in my eyes as we talked: IUDs are imperfect. Medicine is imperfect. We make the best decision under the circumstances. She added: "You decide now if you want a new IUD, a different kind of IUD or something else altogether. Pain and bleeding isn't normal. But you knew that. I read your file."

She may have known about my torn pelvis during pregnancy or my other experiences. In the medical records, my specific body had its own literature for her to learn from. She didn't assume my body was a problem. My doctor listened to my specific story and assumed that my narrative was valuable in treating me. We both agreed that my being healthy was normal. I hope that's the starting point other doctors and patients will embrace too.

TIPHANIE YANIQUE is a professor of creative writing at Emory University and the author of four books, including the novel "Monster in the Middle."

Big Tech's sickness fuels failures like Silicon Valley Bank

By Roger McNamee

AFTER 20 YEARS of what appeared to be unstoppable growth, America's tech industry has spent the past year underperforming the rest of the economy. Product failures in new industries like virtual reality and cryptocurrency, layoffs across the board, lower stock prices and the failure of Silicon Valley Bank create a teachable moment to talk about the tech industry's culture and direction.

Beginning in the mid-'50s, the tech industry embarked on a 50-year run of invention, entrepreneurship, empowerment and transformation. It delivered new industries and massive productivity gains to the rest of the economy. Americans grew accustomed to new technology, embracing each new generation, confident that it would make their lives better.

To an increasing degree over the past dozen years, the tech industry exploited the trust of consumers and policymakers to change the game. Rather than empowering users, many new technologies have exploited human weakness. They have used data and application design to manipulate the choices and sometimes the behavior of users, undermining their autonomy. Rather than creating new industries, tech has exploited data, low-cost capital and lack of regulation to extract value from consumers and existing industries. Tech has become a zero-sum industry.

Despite press coverage of the harms arising from internet platforms — including political and social polarization — of the questionable business practices of cryptocurrency, and the flaws of artificial-intelligence systems, policymakers have failed to regulate or legislate. Just as important, consumers have chosen to trust even the most untrustworthy of tech companies. We know there is something wrong, but we have not yet insisted on change.

The recent collapse of Silicon Valley Bank illustrates a tech industry culture that prioritizes profit over the public interest time and again. SVB was a community bank. It claimed that half of all startups had accounts there, as well as a huge percentage of venture capitalists and executives. For decades, SVB embraced Silicon Valley culture, providing unique services to its community. And until quite recently, Silicon Valley was loyal to its bank.

Explosive growth in the startup world after the 2008 financial crisis translated into massive deposit growth that stopped a year ago when the Federal Reserve announced its plan to raise interest rates to stem inflation.

Four factors contributed to the collapse of SVB. Had the Fed not raised interest rates by 4.75% over the past year, SVB would not have failed. Had Congress not passed a law in 2018 that loosened the regulation of banks such as SVB, SVB would not have failed. Had SVB employed good risk management, it would not have failed. Had bank regulators done their job during a period of rapidly rising interest rates, SVB would not have failed. But even with all four failures, SVB should not have failed.

SVB failed because the community it had supported from its inception abandoned it at a critical moment. A group of venture capital firms that included Peter Thiel's Founders Fund raised an alarm about SVB and encouraged their portfolio companies to withdraw funds immediately — $24 billion went out the door in little more than a day.

Some in the tech industry would have you believe the collapse of SVB — as with other failures of tech — is unconnected to the culture and business practices of Silicon Valley. That is nonsense, and there are lessons to be gleaned.

One lesson is that loosening regulations on big sectors — such as the rollback of Dodd-Frank financial reforms in 2018 — rarely ends well. One might reasonably conclude that government regulations, such as those around vaccines, serve an essential role in consumer safety that becomes less obvious the longer they have been effective.

The vast majority of the major players in tech now were not in operation when the deregulation boom began in 1981, but no industry has exploited laissez-faire government policies more effectively than tech. Industry leaders have consistently shifted the burden of harm from their products from themselves to those touched by their products.

Another lesson is that technology progress is not inevitable. The historian Melvin Kranzberg once noted that "technology is neither good nor bad, nor is it neutral." Technology is the work of human beings and reflects their priorities, incentives and values. If we want tech to be a force for good, we need to ensure that the priorities, incentives and values of the people creating it are consistent with the national interest. We have not done that for at least 20 years.

A third lesson is higher interest rates and increased geopolitical tension may not support the strategies embraced by startups over the past decade. This may be a blessing in disguise.

The industry will always argue that more regulation would slow innovation. The counterargument is that much of the innovation of the past dozen years has caused significant social harm.

> The social harm stemming from the industry's products shows the need for strong regulations. Such boundaries add stability. They won't slow innovation.

Consider all the tech startups since the 2008 financial crisis and ask yourself how we should calculate the harm to society. Some of the most prominent tech segments have done huge damage to consumers, including crypto, AI, self-driving cars, facial recognition, deep fakes and social platforms able to violate your privacy and track your every move. Most startups have done something good, but far too many use the good as bait to enable business practices that lead to harm. They do it because of misaligned priorities, incentives and values.

This brings us back to Silicon Valley Bank. The people whose calls to withdraw funds triggered the bank run are successful, wealthy and careless. If leaders in Silicon Valley are unwilling to support SVB, one of their own and a uniquely valuable partner in their ecosystem, it is safe to assume their business goals would not consider, much less act for, the greater good.

Why would we entrust leadership of an industry central to our economy to people who have no interest in the public interest? The Silicon Valley Bank story also suggests they don't understand banking, a system that plays a central role in their success. What else don't they understand?

The solution to this damaged culture is regulation in three areas: public safety, individual privacy and choice, and competition. Congress has a long history of legislating in all three areas. Engineers do their best work when faced with constraints — and it is time to give them some.

ROGER MCNAMEE is a co-founder of Elevation Partners and author of "Zucked: Waking Up to the Facebook Catastrophe."

L.A. Care's problems persist, hospitals say

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

L.A. CARE, led by John Baackes, has defended its performance, calling the letter from hospitals criticizing its managed care plan for Medi-Cal patients in L.A. County a “blatant mischaracterization of the issues.”

[**L.A. Care,** from A1]

The fundamental issue is that when Medi-Cal patients need to be discharged to skilled nursing facilities, “if they can fill a bed with a Medicare patient, they can get a much better reimbursement. If they can find a private pay patient, it's even better,” said John Baackes, chief executive of L.A. Care.

“We're not the problem,” he said. “It's really a more systemic issue.”

L.A. Care has operated a managed care plan for Medi-Cal patients in L.A. County for more than two decades. The organization, created as an independent public agency by the state of California, is overseen by a board that includes representatives from groups involved in healthcare, including hospitals, community clinics and the county Department of Health Services.

In its accusation last year, the California Department of Managed Health Care said that L.A. Care delays had harmed patients, including a cancer patient who deteriorated rapidly as he went without treatment.

Another L.A. Care member, who had been told they might have only six to nine months to live, ran into “consistent denials and delays” from L.A. Care in obtaining treatment — and abandoned the health plan as a result, the department wrote.

Baackes said that for delays in authorizations and grievances, “today I can say those problems have been addressed.” L.A. Care is contesting the amount of the fines from the Department of Managed Health Care and the Department of Health Care Services, and has not paid them as it pursues its appeals.

The Department of Health Care Services said it has been working with L.A. Care to address the root causes of its problems, and that L.A. Care had been keeping pace with new requests for prior authorizations after clearing a backlog.

> ‘When you call L.A. Care, there is not a lot of support or help. The burden falls on the hospitals.’
>
> — DR. BERNARD KLEIN,
> chief executive of Providence Holy Cross Medical Center

The Department of Managed Health Care also said it was continuing to monitor whether L.A. Care is following state laws. Both agencies said they were reviewing the concerns raised by the Hospital Assn. of Southern California.

In interviews, hospital officials said they had struggled to transfer out L.A. Care patients who no longer needed a hospital bed.

One L.A. Care member who could have been discharged a day after being admitted to a Providence hospital in Tarzana instead stayed for nearly three months as the hospital was turned down by sub-acute facilities, said Dr. Bernard Klein, chief executive of Providence Holy Cross Medical Center.

“When you call L.A. Care, there is not a lot of support or help,” he said. “The burden falls on the hospitals.”

Klein said that another L.A. Care member who had stabbed himself in the knee was treated, and then needed to be transferred to a nursing facility, but one after another turned the hospital down.

L.A. Care refused to authorize another kind of placement and said the hospital had to keep looking for a nursing facility that would accept him, Klein said.

The patient ended up spending 132 days in the hospital — 98 days of which were “avoidable” — “because we could not find a place to place him,” Klein said. Providence ultimately decided to pay $15,000 to move him into a board-and-care facility for months, Klein said, in order to free up his hospital bed for other patients.

At MLK Community Hospital, patients had to spend roughly 600 additional days in the hospital last year, “just due to administrative issues related to L.A. Care,” Reyno said. The health plan accounts for roughly 55% of its admissions, but more than 70% of its “administrative avoidable days,” he said.

Hospital officials said that as L.A. Care members linger in hospital beds, it becomes harder to move patients out of the emergency department and into inpatient care, and that as emergency departments fill to bursting, it takes longer for paramedics to offload new patients.

That snowball effect hurts not only L.A. Care members but anyone who needs a bed or an ambulance, the hospital association and other groups argued.

“If an ambulance is sitting in the emergency room waiting for a bed, they're not available to run a 911 call,” said Chad Druten, president of the Los Angeles County Ambulance Assn.

His group and the California Assn. of Health Facilities, which represents nursing facilities, joined the hospital association in asking for the county board to call on L.A. Care to take immediate steps to speed up authorizations.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, who also sits on the L.A. Care board, said she was “very concerned” about the delays described by the hospital association, and had spoken directly with Baackes about the issue.

But so far the county board has not taken any official action to call on L.A. Care to make changes.

L.A. Care told hospitals that it had moved to expand its network of facilities to discharge patients and is now contracted with the 313 out of 390 skilled nursing facilities in the county. Baackes, in an interview, said L.A. Care had offered higher payments to some nursing facilities to take hard-to-place patients.

The health plan said that more than 97% of the time, its turnaround times were within 72 hours for authorizing inpatient care for urgent cases. And L.A. Care said it would soon have a dedicated team to assist hospitals in resolving authorization and discharge issues.

Hospital association President and Chief Executive George W. Greene called it “yet another statement with little substance or mechanism for accountability” and countered that 72 hours was still far too long. In a letter, he said that even though L.A. Care had expanded its network, facilities often “refuse to accept the plan's members because L.A. Care does not pay them in a timely or accurate manner.”

Joe Diaz, regional director of the California Assn. of Health Facilities, said some skilled nursing facilities are owed $500,000 to $750,000 in payments, and “simply can't operate losing that kind of money.”

L.A. Care said it was not delinquent in payments to hospitals or skilled nursing facilities based on “clean claims” that included all necessary information, although incomplete claims could be denied because of missing information.

The health plan also said it had increased the rate at which nursing facilities get claims accepted and paid, with more than 90% of clean claims processed within the required time on the first try.

Hospital officials around Los Angeles County said their issues with L.A. Care are not new, but have become more dire as medical facilities across California are under stress. As the San Joaquin Valley reels from the recent closure of Madera Community Hospital, the California Hospital Assn. has warned that more hospitals could be on the brink of closure.

The California Hospital Assn., like L.A. Care, has argued that Medi-Cal is underfunded. But it has also urged the state to step in and demand that health plans immediately pay outstanding claims, saying that “immediate action is needed to hold health plans accountable for meeting existing requirements in state law.”

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Building a Southwestern University Liberal Arts Community

In the midst of “Silicon Hills” near Austin, Texas, Southwestern University is poised to enter its third century with its own “city on a hill”—a place for unparalleled learning experiences and career opportunities. With more property than Disneyland, a unique liberal arts-inspired city is being planned on 500 contiguous acres. The University is also investing more than $120 million over the next three years to build two planned LEED Gold-rated mixed-use residence halls and a welcome center ready for occupancy by summer 2025.

The landmark Mood-Bridwell Hall will undergo an extensive renovation—to be completed summer 2024—that blends 21st century technology with the building's deep history. A new multi-use athletics complex and football stadium is being designed as Southwestern anticipates a new era in sports with the Southern Athletic Association. With applications and selectivity at an all-time high, Southwestern looks to its third century continuing as a national leader in liberal arts education.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA

DMV rule is driven by bias, some say

In-person tests for drivers 70 and older to renew license are called discriminatory.

STEVE LOPEZ

When you're 40, 70 seems old. When you get there, not so much, and I'm closing in fast.

So when a reader complained that since Jan. 1, California drivers 70 and older have had to take a written test and an eye exam at a Department of Motor Vehicles office to get their licenses renewed, it got my attention.

Frank, who lives in North Hills, called it blatant age discrimination. Speaking of which, Frank asked me not to use his last name because, as an entertainment writer, he fears that revealing his age will work against him.

Frank was lucky enough to have his renewal come up last fall, when it was still possible to take care of it online — without a written or vision test. But his wife, Diane, will have to go to a DMV office when she's up for renewal in December, even though she's got no points against her for accidents or moving violations.

"No matter how you look at it, it's discrimination," said Diane, who thinks that if younger people with clean records don't have to jump through any extra hoops, older drivers shouldn't have to either.

Actually, the 70-and-older in-person requirement isn't new. It was in place since 1978, until Gov. Gavin Newsom's executive order for a temporary waiver during the COVID-19 pandemic. That waiver expired because the virus threat has waned, and we're simply back to the way we were.

To be fair, for those of us who are older and not bionic, the eyes begin to go, reaction time fades, and driving at night can become more of a challenge. I've covered horrific deadly crashes in which the drivers were young and reckless, but it's still hard to forget the horrific 2003 crash in which an 86-year-old man lost control of his car and killed nine people, including a 3-year-old girl, at the Santa Monica farmers market.

More than a decade ago, my siblings and I had to have that sad conversation about whether to hide our father's car keys — we even discussed reporting him to the DMV — because he was becoming a threat behind the wheel, even though he insisted he was as sharp as ever.

I thought about my dad again when I read that actor Dick Van Dyke, 97, recently crashed into a gate in Malibu during a rainstorm and suffered what were described as moderate injuries. I think it's fair to have a conversation about whether 97 is too old to be driving. And for anyone 70 and older who's dented a fender or kissed a fire hydrant, I don't have a problem with eye exams and driving tests.

Judi Snyder, of La Cañada, is in her 70s, and she's fine with the required in-person eye exam and knowledge test requirement. I bumped into her Wednesday as she strolled toward the Glendale DMV office for her renewal appointment.

[See **Lopez,** B10]

National Park Service

RESEARCH shows pumas may face less risk in counties that support "pro-environment" measures. In some of California's most densely populated areas, such as L.A., cougars saw the highest survival rates.

Human attitudes may affect pumas' survival

Study finds surprising predictor of species' safety

WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

A MOUNTAIN LION runs near the Brentwood Country Club in October. Humans are the greatest threat to the species' survival.

By Sean Greene

Vehicle strikes. Rat poison. Permitted killings by ranchers and homeowners. The average California mountain lion is more likely to die at the hands of a human than of natural causes.

Yet new research suggests that the charismatic cats may face less risk from humans in counties where voters supported "pro-environment" ballot measures — an indication that human attitudes can play a role in survival rates.

In the first long-term, statewide analysis of mountain lion mortality, researchers examined records for 590 radio-collared cats from Siskiyou to San Diego counties, between 1974 and 2020. Of 263 documented deaths, researchers were able to determine a cause for 199. Slightly more than half of the deaths were caused by humans.

To the researchers' surprise, the

[See **Mountain lions,** B7]

Housing is high on state agenda this year

Lawmakers push bills to raise production of affordable homes and further help tenants.

By Hannah Wiley

Feeling political pressure to solve California's severe housing shortage and ballooning homelessness, state lawmakers are pushing new bills to increase production of affordable homes and strengthen tenant protections against evictions and surging rents.

Some of the proposals include letting religious organizations quickly build affordable homes on their excess land and lowering the cap on how much landlords can raise rents each year. Others would ask voters to add housing as a human right to the state Constitution and ease barriers homeowners face when building duplexes in their single-family neighborhoods.

Those efforts would add to laws passed in recent years to streamline student housing on college campuses, funnel hundreds of millions of dollars into affordable housing and clear red tape for more accessory dwelling units, known as casitas or granny flats.

And yet the majority of voters remain disillusioned with housing costs in California. Seventy-four percent of voters view housing affordability as a major issue, according to a February survey by the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California, and nearly 90% are worried that younger generations won't be able to afford a home in the state.

State Sen. Scott Wiener, a San Francisco Democrat who leads the Housing Committee, said progress has been made over the last several years to address the

[See **Housing,** B4]

A vigil for disabled people killed by caregivers

By Emily Alpert Reyes

In the Burbank chapel, as attendees braced to hear the names of the dead, Pastor Ryan Chaddick welcomed the sparse crowd with familiarity.

"I'm here tonight, and we're doing this," said Chaddick, dressed simply in black, "because for some reason in 2023 we have to say to the world that killing disabled people is wrong."

It seemed ridiculous, he said, to even have to announce that.

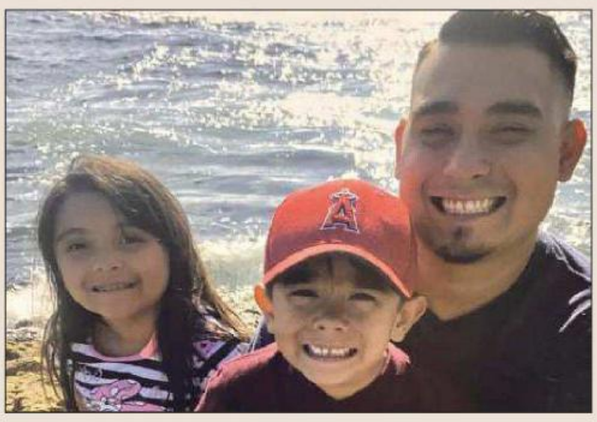
"But as long as disabled people are killed for being disabled," he said, "I will rage against the night and we will light candles as protest and we will cuss and we will pray."

Roughly a dozen people had trickled into the Burbank church on that frigid evening at the beginning of March to mark Disability Day of Mourning. To hear the names of people killed by parents and other relatives or caregivers. To listen to poems, songs and readings about the outrage of disabled people losing their lives to those who were supposed to safeguard them.

For the Lutheran pastor, like many others in the chapel, the horror of those killings hits home. He is an autistic man, diagnosed in adulthood. He is also the father of autistic children, one of whose diagnosis set in motion his own. And his own path to understanding his daughters and himself led him to rethinking things in his life and his church.

"All of us — um, pretty sure, because I know you, or I've talked to you — everyone here is disabled or crazy," Chaddick, 38, told the attendees with a slight smile

[See **Vigil,** B4]



PROVIDED BY MATUS FAMILY

SUIT OVER JAIL DEATH

Richard Matus Jr., shown with his children, was found dead in his Murrieta cell in August, one of 18 deaths in Riverside County jails last year. **B3**

Two gray wolves caught, collared and released

Tracking the animals' movements is a critical part of rehabilitating their diminished population. **B3**

Bay Area DJ's body is found

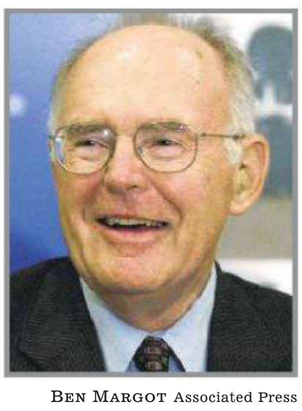
San Francisco police originally reported morning co-host Jeffrey Vandergrift missing on Feb. 24. **B3**

Lottery **B2**

GORDON E. MOORE, 1929 - 2023

Intel co-founder, tech prophet

By Ashley Dunn



BEN MARGOT Associated Press

INTEL CHIEF

In 1965, Moore's "simple observation" on transistors led to Moore's Law.

Gordon E. Moore, co-founder of Intel Corp. and creator of Moore's Law — the mantra of boundless technological development that came to define the digital age — has died at age 94.

Moore died Friday at his home in Hawaii, according to the company and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

From humble roots as the son of the sheriff of Pescadero, Calif., Moore went on to create Intel, one of the greatest technological powerhouses of the 20th century.

Moore, who was trained as a chemist, was among the earliest pioneers in the creation of the integrated circuit, chips of silicon that came to form the backbone of modern technology.

He was among the small group of engineers and scientists, including Nobelist William Shockley, one of the co-inventors of the transistor, and Robert Noyce, the co-inventor of the integrated circuit, who put the silicon in Silicon Valley.

But what distinguished Moore beyond many of his legendary peers was that he also had a blend of skills that extended far beyond the merely technical.

As the chairman of Intel, Moore guided the company with a homespun demeanor and the spirit of a Las Vegas gambler.

[See **Moore,** B7]

State wants Medicaid to cover 6 months of rent

By Angela Hart

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom, whose administration is struggling to contain a worsening homelessness crisis despite record spending, is trying something bold: tapping federal healthcare funding to cover rent for homeless people and those at risk of losing their housing.

States are barred from using federal Medicaid dollars to pay directly for rent, but California's governor is asking the administration of President Biden, a fellow Democrat, to authorize a new program called "transitional rent," which would provide up to six months of rent or temporary housing for low-income enrollees who rely on the state's healthcare safety net.

"I've been talking to the president. We cannot do this alone," Newsom told Kaiser Health News.

The governor is pushing California's version of Medicaid, called Medi-Cal, to fund experimental housing subsidies for homeless people, betting that it's cheaper for taxpayers to cover rent than to allow people to fall into crisis or costly institutional care in hospitals, nursing homes and jails. Early in his tenure, Newsom proclaimed that "doctors should be able to write prescriptions for housing the same way they do for insulin or antibiotics."

But it's a risky endeavor in a high-cost state where median rent is nearly $3,000 a month. Experts expect the Biden administration to scrutinize the plan and question its potential effectiveness.

"Part of the question is whether this is really Medicaid's job," said Vikki Wachino, who served as national Medicaid director in the Obama administration. "But there is a recognition that social factors like inadequate housing are driving health outcomes, and I think the federal government is open to developing approaches to try and address that."

Bruce Alexander, a spokesperson for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, declined to say whether the federal government would approve California's request. Biden's Medicaid officials have approved similar experimental programs in Oregon and Arizona, and California is modeling its program after them.

California is home to an estimated 30% of the homeless people in the U.S., despite representing just 12% of the country's overall population. Top health officials say that, to contain soaring safety-net spending and help homeless people get healthy, Medi-Cal has no choice but to combine social services with housing.

Heidi de Marco Kaiser Health News

STEPHEN MORTON says he's been able to drop one of his diabetes medications and lose weight since landing housing through a federal low-income voucher.

Statewide, 5% of Medi-Cal patients account for a staggering 44% of the program's spending, according to state data. And many of the costliest patients lack stable housing: Nearly half of patients experiencing homelessness visited the emergency room four times or more in 2019 and were more likely than other low-income adults to be admitted to the hospital, and a large majority of visits were covered by Medi-Cal, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

"What we have today doesn't work," said Dr. Mark Ghaly, secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency, explaining his argument that housing is a critical component of healthcare. "Why do we have to wait so long for people to be so sick?"

The federal government has already approved a massive social experiment in California, known as CalAIM, which is transforming Medi-Cal. Over five years, the initiative is expected to pour $12 billion into new Medi-Cal services delivered outside of traditional healthcare. In communities across the state, it is already funding services for some low-income patients, including paying rental security deposits for homeless people and those facing eviction; delivering prepared healthy meals for people with diabetes; and helping formerly incarcerated people find jobs.

The transitional rent program would add another service to those already available, though only a sliver of the 15.4 million Medi-Cal enrollees actually receive those new and expensive social services.

Rent payments could begin as soon as 2025 and cost roughly $117 million per year once fully implemented.

Healthcare experiments in California and around the country that funded housing supports have demonstrated early success in reducing costs and making people healthier. But although some programs paid for security deposits or participants' first month of rent, none directly covered rent for an extended period.

In a precursor to the state's current initiative, California experimented with a mix of housing assistance programs and social services through its "Whole Person Care" pilot program. Nadereh Pourat, of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, evaluated the program for the state, concluding that local trials reduced emergency visits and hospitalizations, saving an average of $383 per Medi-Cal beneficiary per year.

A randomized control trial in Santa Clara County that provided supportive housing for homeless people showed reductions in psychiatric emergency room visits and improvements in care. "Lives stabilized and we saw a huge uptick in substance use care and mental health care, the things that everybody wants people to use to get healthier," said Dr. Margot Kushel, director of UC San Francisco's Center for Vulnerable Populations, who worked on the study.

But healthcare experts say that, although six months of rent can be a bridge while people wait for permanent housing, there's a bigger obstacle: California's affordable housing shortage.

"We can design incredible Medicaid policies to alleviate homelessness and pay for all the necessary supportive services, but without the adequate housing, frankly, it's not going to work," Kushel said.

Newsom acknowledges that criticism. "The crisis of homelessness will never be solved without first solving the crisis of housing," he said this month, arguing California should plow more money into housing for homeless people with severe mental health conditions or addiction disorders.

He announced last week that he would ask the Legislature to put before voters a 2024 ballot initiative that would infuse California's mental health system with new treatment beds and supportive housing for people with mental illness and addiction disorders, many of them homeless.

For transitional rent, six months of payments would be available for select high-need residents enrolled in Medi-Cal, particularly those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Medi-Cal patients at risk of inpatient hospitalization or who frequent the emergency room would also be eligible.

For Stephen Morton, who lives in Laguna Woods, the journey from homelessness into permanent housing illustrates the amount of public spending it can take for the effort to pay off.

Morton, 60, bounced between shelters and his car for nearly two years and racked up extraordinary Medi-Cal costs due to prolonged hospitalizations and repeated ER trips to treat chronic heart disease, asthma and diabetes.

He landed temporary housing through Project Roomkey before getting permanent housing through a federal low-income voucher, an ongoing benefit that covers all but $50 of his rent.

Since getting his apartment, Morton said, he's been able to stop taking one diabetes medication and lose weight. He attributes improvements in his blood sugar levels to his housing and the healthy meals he receives via Medi-Cal.

"I'm so grateful and so much healthier," Morton said.

Hart writes for Kaiser Health News. This story was produced by KHN, an editorially independent newsroom of the Kaiser Family Foundation that provides in-depth coverage of health issues.

Lottery results

For Friday, March 24, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**

14-17-33-42-66—**Mega 15**
Jackpot: $302 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + Mega	0	—
5	1	$651,609
4 + Mega	2	$15,755
4	66	$537
3 + Mega	178	$226
3	4,795	$10
2 + Mega	4,038	$10
1 + Mega	31,688	$4
Mega only	77,387	$2

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Saturday, March 25, 2023

SuperLotto Plus
Mega number is **bold**

4-12-13-42-47—**Mega 1**
Jackpot: $44 million

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

15-17-18-47-57—**Powerball 19**
Jackpot: $112 million

Fantasy Five: 5-12-20-24-30

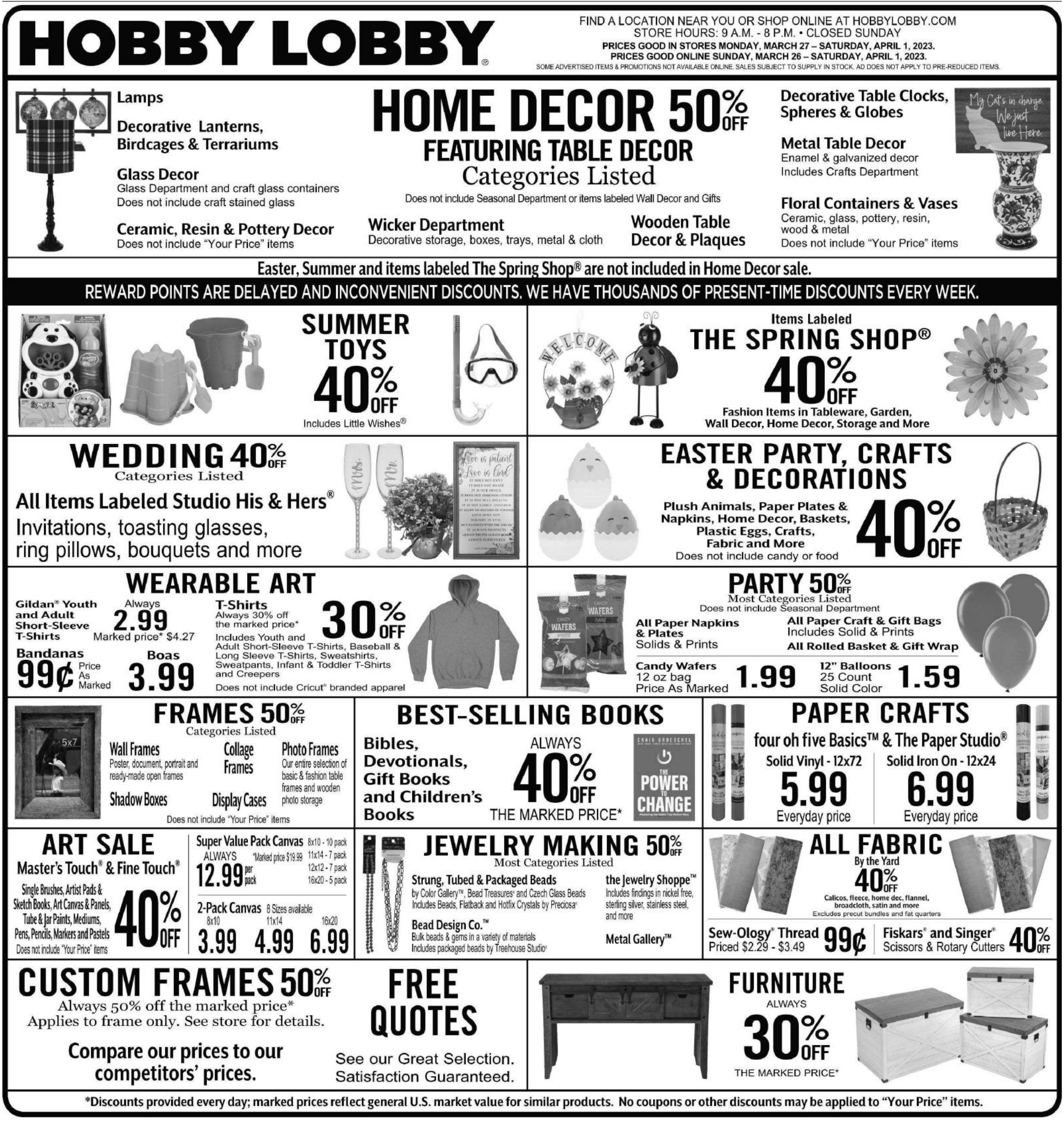
Daily Four: 7-8-1-7

Daily Three (midday): 2-5-8

Daily Three (evening): 0-1-9

Daily Derby:
(10) Solid Gold
(9) Winning Spirit
(2) Lucky Star
Race time: 1:42.59

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)



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Decorative Lanterns, Birdcages & Terrariums
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Wicker Department — Decorative storage, boxes, trays, metal & cloth
Wooden Table Decor & Plaques
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Metal Table Decor — Enamel & galvanized decor. Includes Crafts Department
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EASTER PARTY, CRAFTS & DECORATIONS 40% OFF — Plush Animals, Paper Plates & Napkins, Home Decor, Baskets, Plastic Eggs, Crafts, Fabric and More. Does not include candy or food

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Death in custody could bring a lawsuit

By Grace Toohey

The family of former NFL player Stanley Wilson Jr., who died last month while in Los Angeles County custody after a recent arrest, said the 40-year-old's death was a result of "excessive force" and "deliberate indifference."

His parents said they found Wilson's body with "ligature marks" on his wrists and "fresh wounds" on his head that appeared "to have been caused by a shoe," according to a claim filed last week that seeks $45 million in damages from the county. Wilson's father is Stanley Wilson Sr., a former NFL running back.

A cause of death has not been made public, but the parents said the county "grossly misrepresented the cause and circumstances" of their son's death, according to the claim.

"The county failed to implement and maintain proper procedures to engage mentally disabled individuals, including Stanley Wilson Jr.," the claim said.

Wilson had recently been deemed incompetent to stand trial after an August 2022 arrest on trespassing-related charges, according to the claim. For some time, Wilson has struggled with mental health issues and drug use, said John Carpenter, the family's attorney.

Wilson "suffered many many traumatic head injuries" and had in recent years been exhibiting the symptoms of chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a brain condition that researchers have found to be extremely prevalent among former NFL players, Carpenter said. Wilson had been previously arrested in Portland, Ore., after an attempt to burglarize a mansion while naked.

"That's how we treat our people with mental illness; we incarcerate them or we let them live on the streets without any support," Carpenter said.

In 2014, Wilson graduated from Stanford, where he played football from 2001 to 2004. The cornerback was drafted in the third round by the Detroit Lions in 2005. His professional football career ended three years later after he tore his Achilles tendon.

Some news outlets reported that Wilson died last month, citing law enforcement sources that he collapsed while being transferred from the county's Twin Towers Correctional Facility in downtown Los Angeles to Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk, which provides care to people ruled incompetent to stand trial.

But Carpenter said a nurse had completed a medical evaluation the night before Wilson's death and found no issues. Carpenter said the family plans to file a wrongful-death lawsuit "to get to the truth."

"It just doesn't make any sense that he would be dead the next morning," Carpenter said.

L.A. County spokesperson Jesus Ruiz declined to comment on the case, citing the pending litigation.

"L.A. County offers its sincere condolences to Mr. Wilson's family," Ruiz said in a statement. The Los Angeles County coroner's office did not immediately respond to questions about the case or the status of Wilson's autopsy.

The county has 45 days to respond to the family's claim — filed on behalf of Wilson's father; mother, Pulane Lucas; and his estate — at which point the family can file the lawsuit.

Carpenter said Wilson's parents reached out to him about a lawsuit after finding their son's body in a "condition that was different than they expected it to be."

"It's easy to marginalize people and write off people with mental illness," he said. "They're treated with indifference, and we believe that played a factor in Stanley's death."

Brian van der Brug Los Angeles Times

HE'S PROJECTING

A man casts a long shadow as he jogs along the surf line in Santa Monica on Saturday. Dry weather will continue throughout the Southland through Monday, before a storm system moves into the area Tuesday afternoon, bringing snow and gusty winds.

18 died in Riverside County jails last year

By Keri Blakinger

Richard Matus, Jr., called home every chance he got — even during his four years in jail. His two kids came to anticipate hearing his voice through the scratchy jail phone, and so last fall when his 13-year-old daughter got back from her first day of school, she asked her grandmother: *Had her dad called yet?*

Lisa Matus needed to figure out a way to tell her: Her father had died. Just hours after a seemingly normal conversation with his mother, the 29-year-old Matus had been found unresponsive in a Riverside County jail cell. At first, his family struggled to get answers, but eventually a coroner's report showed that he died of an overdose before jail staff could intervene to save him.

Amid a surge of inmate deaths, Riverside County has come under increasing scrutiny from state investigators and now is facing new legal action in federal court. Not only has Matus' family filed suit, but their lawyer told The Times on Saturday that there are at least five other families planning to do the same after their loved ones died in local lockups.

"This is the first of six federal lawsuits that we are bringing on behalf of the six families that we are representing," said Long Beach-based lawyer Denisse Gastélum. "Our goal is to shed public light on the ongoing, endemic, unabated risks of injury and death to pretrial detainees who are presumed innocent in the eyes of the law and are forced to be incarcerated in the Riverside County jails."

With 18 deaths, 2022 was the Riverside County jails' deadliest year in over a decade, according to the lawsuit.

In the past, Sheriff Chad Bianco has taken to social media to blame families of the incarcerated for their deaths, and called lawyers who represent them "bad" people. He's also blamed the inmates themselves, alleging that people "purposely get arrested just to smuggle drugs" into the jails.

"Every single one of these inmate deaths was out of anyone's control," he said previously. "The fact of the matter is that they just happened to be in our custody."

On Saturday, his office declined to comment, citing pending litigation.

According to his lawyer, Matus grew up in Riverside County. As a kid, his family nicknamed him "Bump" — a moniker he earned from being a clumsy boy who always carried around his stuffed elephant, Bump.

In the years before his arrest, Matus made a living installing security systems and working as a stagehand for his brother's music events. His lawyer said he didn't have a history of heavy drug use. But in 2018, both he and his younger brother, Raymond, ended up behind bars after they were accused of attempted murder during the robbery of a marijuana dispensary.

Richard Matus maintained his innocence and wanted to take the case to trial. So he spent four years in the county jail awaiting his day in court.

On the evening of Aug. 10, Matus called his mother. She said he sounded coherent and engaged, according to the lawsuit.

But a few hours later, records show that deputies found him unresponsive inside his cell at the Cois M. Byrd Detention Center in Murrieta. By that point, according to the suit, he'd been "experiencing a medical emergency for an appreciable amount of time."

The deputies who responded a little before midnight administered doses of the overdose-reversing drug Narcan, but found they were too late. According to a report by the coroner division of the sheriff's office, Matus died from an overdose of fentanyl, combined with alcohol. It's not clear how he got hold of the substances, or whether he ingested the powerful opioid on purpose.

At least six other jail deaths last year were the result of drug overdoses, and three more were deemed suicides. Four were by natural causes, two were homicides, and the cause of death for two had not been determined as of last week when the Matus suit was filed.

Aside from laying out the details of last year's fatalities, the lawsuit accused the county and the sheriff's department of "great indifference," saying they were "repeatedly put on notice of great dangers which existed within the Riverside County correctional facilities through the long history of in-custody deaths."

Specifically, the suit pointed to a 2013 class action case filed by three inmates who alleged that their constitutional rights had been violated because of the bad medical and mental health services they received behind bars. That suit eventually led to a consent decree, requiring the county to make improvements.

Better mental health and medical care, Gastélum said, would help prevent so many overdoses and other in-custody deaths.

"There is no good reason that we should have folks dying in our jails," Gastélum said. "Unlike in some states, California has in place all these regulations to protect incarcerated people. We're going to demand that they comply."

The 50-page lawsuit alleges negligence, failure to supervise employees and failure to provide medical care but does not specify the amount of damages the family is seeking.

Last month, the string of Riverside County jail deaths spurred the state's attorney general to begin investigating the sheriff's office over allegations of excessive force and inhumane jail conditions.

"It is time for us to shine a light on the Riverside County Sheriff's Office and its practices," Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta said at the time. "Too many families and communities in Riverside are hurting and looking for answers."

In response, Bianco released a video statement promising to cooperate with the probe, while dismissing it as a political stunt.

"This investigation is based on nothing but false and misleading statements and straight-out lies from activists, including their attorneys," Bianco said. "This will prove to be a complete waste of time and resources."

The aim of the probe is to figure out whether the sheriff's office has shown a pattern or practice of unconstitutional or unlawful policing. If the state's investigation shows that they have, Bonta could get court-ordered remedies to correct it.

In recent months, Bonta has launched investigations into other law enforcement agencies, including the Torrance Police Department and the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. And more than two years ago, Bonta's predecessor opened an investigation into the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Los Angeles jails also saw a high number of deaths last year. Records from the county medical examiner show that 44 people died in custody, making it the second-deadliest year of the past decade.

2 gray wolves caught, collared

By Rebecca Ellis

Two members of California's small but rebounding gray wolf population have been located and given tracking collars, bolstering the state's conservation efforts, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife announced Friday.

The agency says they located and captured the two wolves on March 17 in Siskiyou County through "intermittent signals" coming off the malfunctioning collar of one wolf. The wolves were given satellite collars, which will transmit regular location updates back to the department.

They were then released back into the wild.

"The capture of these wolves is fantastic since we lost the only functioning satellite collar last summer, and ground capture efforts since then have been unsuccessful," Kent Laudon, wolf specialist and senior environmental scientist for the department, said in a statement. "A lot of people have worked hard to make this happen, and we're excited about the new collars and data."

Collaring the wolves and tracking their movements is a critical part of rehabilitating the diminished population, which were hunted to the point of extinction in the state in the 1920s. Since 2014, gray wolves have been protected under the California Endangered Species Act, and hunting them is prohibited. The loss of the apex predator has had dramatic impacts throughout the food chain and has thrown the delicate balance between predators and prey into disarray.

Wolves have slowly returned to California, trotting in from other states. One such wolf, known as OR-93, famously made the journey from western Oregon, crossing freeways and mountain passes until he arrived in Southern California. The odyssey ended tragically, with the wolf fatally struck by a car near Interstate 5 in late 2021. Nevertheless, his epic journey was hailed by wolf advocates, who said it gave them hope the species might one day safely roam wild across the region once again.

One of the wolves captured last week, called OR85, was also from Oregon and had been captured and collared by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in February 2020. Later that year, he made the journey from northeastern Oregon to the northernmost part of California.

Now 4 years old and 98 pounds, OR85 was found alongside a 1-year-old, 97-pound male wolf believed to be from a litter he had in 2021. OR85 mated with a gray female wolf from southwestern Oregon, who gave birth to seven pups in 2021 and eight pups last year.

The rebounding gray wolf numbers have created tension across the West between conservationists, who want to see the population return, and ranchers and farmers, who say their livestock are routinely threatened. The state says it shares information gleaned from the collars with cattle and sheep ranchers to alert them to nearby wolf activity.

Body of Bay Area disc jockey is found

By Andrew J. Campa

A month after the disappearance of popular Bay Area disc jockey Jeffrey Vandergrift, his body was found in the San Francisco Bay on Wednesday, according to the San Francisco medical examiner's office.

The examiner's office released a statement Thursday, confirming Vandergrift's death, but it offered no further comment, including the cause of death. Vandergrift was 55.

The San Francisco chief medical examiner will conduct an official investigation into Vandergrift's death, according to the examiner's office. There was "no evidence of foul play," the San Francisco Police Department said in a statement.

San Francisco police originally reported Vandergrift missing on Feb. 24, with his last known whereabouts at his residence in the city's South of Market neighborhood at 10 p.m. the previous day.

Vandergrift, known as JV, co-hosted "The JV Show" morning program with his wife, model Natasha Yi, on the KYLD Wild 94.9 FM radio station in the Bay Area.

The station confirmed Vandergrift's death on Twitter.

"We are devastated to know now that JV is gone," the station's statement said. "Please keep his wife Natasha, his family, and close friends in your thoughts and prayers."

On March 1, Yi issued a message to their morning show fans on social media, saying that she did not suspect foul play in her husband's disappearance.

"I want to let you know that personal information has recently been discovered that leads us to believe JV will not be coming back. I tell you this with incredible pain and sadness in my heart," she wrote on the station's Twitter account..

On Sept. 22, Vandergrift shared a Facebook post titled "Lyme & Suicide" and chronicled his struggles with the bacterial disease. He referred to battling Lyme disease as a "daily torture" and said that he had multiple infections.

Vandergrift, who grew up in Fremont, fell in love with radio as a junior at Fremont High School and dreamed about hosting his own show, according to his bio on Wild 94.9.

Fighting the notion that some deserve less

[**Vigil,** from B1]

and a nod before the readings began. “Welcome.”

In the United States, people with disabilities are nearly four times as likely to be a victim of a violent crime as those without disabilities, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics analysis. And when they are victimized, people with disabilities are twice as likely as other people to suffer violence at the hands of a family member — including their parents.

More than a decade ago, Zoe Gross helped launch the annual, now-international event in reaction to the framing of news stories about one such killing. Gross, director of advocacy for the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, was appalled by news coverage after the killing of Sunnyvale resident George Hodgins, 22, who was shot by his mother, who then shot herself.

The tone of the stories, she said, seemed sympathetic to the perpetrator — a sympathy that she found scant for the disabled victim himself. One article, Gross remembered, quoted a mother saying, “Every mother I know who has a child with special needs has a moment just like that.”

It was “really normalizing this very upsetting, tragic thing that happened,” she said. “Saying that urge is in all parents with disabled children — I found so disturbing.”

Later that same month, a San Diego woman drowned her 4-year-old autistic son in a bathtub. Gross, in an essay, asked anyone who had said the murder of George Hodgins was understandable, anyone who had called it a “mercy killing,” to think about whether that San Diego mother had heard them.

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During the pandemic, after his older daughter underwent an assessment and was found to be autistic, Chaddick and his wife began reading books about “what it’s like to be an autistic kiddo” — and found it jarringly familiar. So was a comedy special by Hannah Gadsby, describing experiences as a child before she was later diagnosed with autism as an adult.

Researchers have found that autism tends to cluster in families, although much remains unknown about its biological underpinnings. As Chaddick came to recognize himself as autistic, the pastor decided to pursue a formal diagnosis — a step that can be difficult for adults, who sometimes struggle to find specialists willing to diagnose adults at all.

Autism — a developmental disability that can affect how people think, communicate, interact and process sensory information — defies simple generalizations. There is no one way to be autistic, but for Chaddick, it means he struggles to parse exactly what people mean when they say they are fine, he said.

He wears earbuds to the grocery store to cut down on the overwhelming noise. About once a month, he has to go to the post office to collect the mail that accumulated, he said, because he forgot or neglected to go down to the mailbox.

But as a kid, “I wasn’t collecting trains and putting them all in a line, so it didn’t compute,” he said.

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

PASTOR RYAN Chaddick lights a candle during a vigil at American Lutheran Church in Burbank, where people gathered for Disability Day of Mourning.

The process of getting his diagnosis forced him to talk about the most painful and alienating moments of his life, he said. Chaddick remembers at one point saying to his doctor, “I feel like I’m trying to prove to you how disabled I am.”

“He was like, ‘Well, let me assure you, you are definitely autistic.’ ”

One of the gifts of being autistic, Chaddick said, is “sometimes I don’t know how to *not* say the thing.”

“Not having the filter that other people do,” he said. “Sitting in spaces with people that are uncomfortable.”

That includes the heaviness of Disability Day of Mourning. “It’s a hard thing to invite people to, because there’s a lot in American consciousness that says, ‘Whistle by the graveyard,’ ” he said. “We’re intentionally trying to say, ‘Please don’t whistle. Please just stay here.’ ”

“Unless we can confront ableism,” he said, “it’s going to continue to hurt everyone.”

::

Inside the Burbank sanctuary, the names were read out on a recording. The faces of each of the dead appeared briefly on the screens flanking the chapel as their names were heard.

A toddler sticking out their tongue. A white-haired nonagenarian, her surgical mask pulled down to show a smile. A young woman who seemed to be posing for a selfie.

For some there was only a white rectangle, labeled “Photo Unavailable.” For others, a photo of a tombstone.

Ten minutes passed as the names were read — and those were only the ones added most recently to the list. There were too many names and too many nameless, the grim outlines of their stories drawn from news reports about people killed by family and caregivers around the world. Gross said the list, which is maintained online, is updated by a volunteer who checks news alerts.

Some articles say “the victim’s initials were this, or this was a girl of this age — that’s all we have to go on,” Gross said.

In the chapel, they were nonetheless recognized:

“Name unknown, age 5 months.”

“Name unknown, age 72.”

“Name unknown, age 6.”

Chaddick stepped forward again and invited the crowd, “as you’re able, if you’re able,” to come forward and light candles and plant them in containers filled with sand.

“None of those were mercy killings,” he said, before words seemed to fail him. “I have nothing else.”

As a singer strummed a guitar and sang “Sunday Bloody Sunday,” people began to trickle up to the front of the chapel. One by one, they lit candles and rooted them in the sand, building a tiny congregation of flames. A father walked up with his young son to light candles, then returned to the pew where they had been sitting, his arm draped around his child.

The screens that had borne the names and faces of the dead now lit up to show a person in a knit cap sitting in a car in Minnesota, reading out the words, “I am not a burden.”

“You were 9 years old. You had a life ahead of you. And then you didn’t. You were a person. Not a burden,” Emily Stoll, the former youth director at the church, read from the screens. “You were 24, or 10, or 15, or 40. All of you had lives ahead of you. And all of you were people, not burdens.”

Parenting is hard, Chaddick said, especially during a global pandemic. And like any parent, he has had challenges and frustrations along the way as the father of two girls, ages 4 and 6.

Figuring out how to teach tooth brushing was “a huge struggle” before they found a smartphone game that helped. Chaddick had to let go of wanting everyone to eat dinner together at a table, which often “doesn’t work for my family” because of their different needs, both sensory and dietary.

“But we watch shows while eating dinner together. And we laugh together. And we make messes together,” he said. “I don’t experience any of that as tragedy.”

The father who had attended the vigil with his young son was Konstantine Anthony, the mayor of Burbank. Anthony, who is autistic, said he had been attending Disability Day of Mourning events for years, and “unfortunately, every year since the vigil began, names have been added to the list.”

“It’s just absolutely devastating to know that there are still people in this world that consider disabled individuals as disposable,” he said.

Outside the church after the vigil, Chaddick greeted the mayor and thanked him and his son for attending. Anthony, looking toward his son fidgeting in the cold, told the pastor, “He said the event was sad, but the church was boring.”

They laughed together.

Gross said the annual vigils have multiplied and become more accepted among a broader range of disability groups over time. At first, she said, it was seen by some as a controversial event, one biased against parents.

“Which I always found a bit confusing,” she said, “because I don’t take these parents that murdered their children as representative of all parents with disabled children.”

The pandemic has also underscored the ways in which people with disabilities are devalued, she said. Disability rights groups were outraged last year when the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it was “encouraging news” that the majority of COVID-19 deaths among vaccinated people were occurring among people with four or more comorbidities — those who were “unwell to begin with.” The CDC director later apologized, but Gross said the incident underscored a set of beliefs that “really has permeated all levels of society.”

A lot of what we’re doing with Day of Mourning is trying to push back against an attitude that people have unconsciously,” she said, which makes it harder to fight.

As Chaddick came to understand his daughters and himself as autistic, he also became more invested in disability justice. “Right now, in the church here it’s Lent,” he said, the period when Christians reflect and prepare for Easter. “The last couple of years have been like a Lent for me.”

He has rethought the wording of worship songs that use disability as a metaphor for sin, he said — even the famous line, “Was blind but now I see.” His church limits the volume of its music so that the chapel is not overstimulating for people sensitive to noise. A church reading group is now digesting “My Body is Not a Prayer Request,”about ableism in churches.

His Burbank church makes closed captioning available for services offered online, he said. He has gotten fidget spinners for those who find them helpful, and the church is working on a grant application for a sign language interpreter and to put together bags with accessibility tools for anyone who comes to worship.

“I’m now more aware,” he said. “It’s painful to see that I did not perceive these things before. But once you have, you can’t stop.”

Bills target housing crisis

[**Housing,** from B1]

state’s multimillion-unit shortage. But greater change will take time.

“I think we are actually starting to turn the corner,” he said. “This is a long-term process.”

Here are notable housing bills to watch this year.

Zoning rules

Housing advocates and environmentalists have teamed up on a new bill to overhaul California’s zoning rules to prevent so-called urban sprawl into rural regions where wildfires and floods are more common.

Assembly Bill 68, which is supported by California YIMBY and the Nature Conservancy, aims to make it easier to construct multifamily housing in developed communities that are hubs for transit and jobs.

Local governments would be able to approve projects outside of existing communities if they can show there’s no more available space or that they have to expand outward in order to meet their state-required housing goals.

The overall ambition is to encourage housing where climate risks are minimal and infrastructure already exists.

Melissa Breach, chief operating officer for California YIMBY, said the housing and climate crises are “inextricably linked” and that AB 68 offers a solution to both.

“We want to encourage housing in existing communities where people really want to live,” Breach said. “And we want to protect people from the incredibly high risk of fire and flood, and all the other climate risks associated with that.”

But developers argue the proposal doesn’t acknowledge how impossible and costly it would be to limit new construction to urban centers.

Dan Dunmoyer, president and CEO of the California Building Industry Assn., called AB 68 “the farthest-away solution to the housing crisis that can possibly be suggested.”

Urban areas flood, too, Dunmoyer said, and many of California’s cities, such as San Francisco and Los Angeles, are at high risk of earthquakes. And when you reduce the amount of land that’s available for housing, the remaining parcels will increase in price. That could mean new homes would be affordable only to wealthy people.

“This is the ultimate housing killer,” Dunmoyer said.

The California Chamber of Commerce agrees. It has recently added AB 68 to its annual “job killer” list, a designation that indicates the group will lobby hard to kill the bill.

Another fight

Wiener introduced two bills this year that he hopes will build on a rare deal Democrats struck with labor unions in August with legislation to convert underused commercial space into new units.

Senate Bill 4 would allow allow nonprofit colleges and faith organizations such as churches, mosques and synagogues to quickly build affordable homes on their land, while Senate Bill 423 would make permanent a 2017 law that lets developers streamline their projects in cities that have failed to meet state-mandated housing goals.

Both bills include a guarantee of union-level pay, known as prevailing wages, and some healthcare benefits for construction workers. Those labor standards were included in last year’s agreement and are supported by the California Conference of Carpenters.

The carpenters have split from other labor groups in backing the bills, including the influential State Building and Construction Trades Council, which has long advocated for the more rigorous requirement of a “skilled and trained workforce.” That standard guarantees that a portion of workers have gone through an apprenticeship program and most are unionized.

The elevated requirement protects workers against exploitation and wage theft and opens up opportunities for women and other marginalized groups to join the industry, said Sabrina Hernandez, who represents an electricians union that’s part of the Trades Council.

“Skilled and trained provides safety and security for those individuals who may be vulnerable,” Hernandez said in an interview after testifying against SB 423 at a recent hearing.

Wiener said he’s hopeful the two sides can find a solution that works for everyone. He’s supported by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), who helped broker last year’s deal and is chair of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee.

Wicks said it’s time to find new ways to build housing and abandon the “status quo.”

“We’re done with that,” she said during a recent housing conference. “We’re trying to find the coalition of the willing who is going to say it’s time to get on this train and build the housing that we need.”

Tenant protections

Current law allows landlords to raise rents by 5% plus inflation each year, or a maximum of 10%, and to pursue certain evictions outside of standard violations of a lease. That includes when landlords or their family members want to move into the home or if they have plans to renovate the property or take it off the rental market.

Sen. María Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles) introduced Senate Bill 567 to further crack down on what she said are outrageous rent increases and unfair evictions that have worsened homelessness.

“The rent increases are out of control,” Durazo said.

Durazo’s bill would cap the increase to inflation, not to exceed 5% annually, and expand protections to renters in single-family homes, condos and mobile homes, according to a summary sheet provided by Durazo’s office.

It would also establish accountability measures to ensure landlords or family members move into the homes and stay there for a period of time, and prohibit permanent evictions after renovations. Instead, tenants would be allowed to move back in after the rehabilitation is finished.

The effort has reignited opposition from organizations representing landlords that fought against the 2019 law that established the current rent cap and eviction standards.

“We came to the table and we struck a balance. That was historic,” said Debra Carlton, executive vice president of state public affairs for the California Apartment Assn.

Carlton said more time is needed to evaluate whether the law is working before it’s expanded, especially because the COVID-19 pandemic provided renters with strong eviction protections through local states of emergency.

> ‘We’re trying to find the coalition of the willing who is going to say it’s time to get on this train and build the housing that we need.’
>
> — ASSEMBLYMEMBER BUFFY WICKS, (D-Oakland)

The association is also opposed to Assembly Bill 12, which would limit security deposits to one month’s rent, which advocates supporting the bill said would prevent renters from falling into debt just to make that payment.

Another proposal, Assembly Bill 919, would give tenants, local public agencies and nonprofits the first opportunity to buy a rental property or match an offer when an owner puts it on the market.

Social housing

Assemblymember Alex Lee (D-San Jose) introduced Assembly Bill 309 to increase social housing options in California. Two previous social housing bills by Lee have failed to pass the Legislature.

There are many social housing models, but the general idea is that it’s government funded and occupied by residents of all income levels. It’s typically more affordable for low-income people, and tenants are granted a greater say over how the building functions and is managed.

Lawmakers took a trip to Vienna in the fall to learn about the widespread use of social housing in the Austrian city, and have pointed to projects in Singapore as a model for what could be done in California.

They could also look down the street from the Capitol for inspiration.

The Capitol Area Development Authority is a public agency that manages more than 700 rental units, according to its website. Though it’s not exactly social housing, its residents have mixed incomes, and about 25% of the units are affordable for lower-income tenants.

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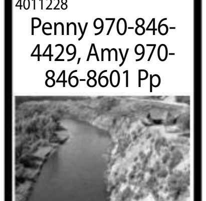

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Employment

SR MGR, MARKT RESRCH/INTEL & ANLYTCS: AbbVie US LLC in Orange County, CA seeks qual SR MGR, MARKT RESRCH/INTEL & ANLYTCS. Create & dev anlytc sols based on busnss needs for mult brands w/in eyecare portfolio. Bachelors or foreign equiv in Bus Anlytcs, Econ, Stats, or hi-rltd field w/ 5yrs rltd exp; Alt., Will accept a Master's degree or foreign acad equiv in aforementioned flds w/ min 1yr of rltd exp ILO bachelors. Each alt w/ min 1 yr of exp in: (i) infrmng forecasting & brand plannng procss &devlp fact-based marktng & sales strats to optmz perfrmnc; (ii) delivr insights based on anlytcs genrtd by leveraging mult healthcare data sources, incl physician & patient level data utlzng progs (i.e. SAS, R, SQL, Python, Dataiku, MS Excel & MS PowerPoint) & tools (i.e. Power BI, Tableau, Qlikview & ThoughtSpot); (iii) intgrtng & synthszng info to report key insghts to internal stakehldrs utilzng Advanced Statistics, SQL, SAS, & Machine Learning; (iv) creatng anlytc models that address critcl issues & meet key bus criteria (e.g., cost, risk, busnss impact) & key tech criteria (e.g., reliability, validity, &predictability). Emp will accpt any suit combo of edu, trainng or exp rltd to job opp. 15% dom travel req. $96,000 to $188,000 per yr. An EOE.40hr/wk. Respond by email to: AbbVie Inc./Attn: L. Borre, job-opportunities@abbvie.com. Refer to ad code: ABV-US-002-LB.

COMPUTER/IT
Riot Games, Inc. has the following job opportunities in Los Angeles, CA (Roles are based on Riot Games' campus, telecommuting from w/in commutable distance of campus is permitted 40% of the week. Riot Games reserves the right to make future amendments to this arrangement, including adjusting to a fully remote model or eliminating the opportunity for telecommuting):

- Data Engineer (Req#19-1460): Influence decisions around how to structure & utilize data & info for game development, publishing & ops. Req's: BS(or equiv.)+ 4yrs. exp. Salary: $120,000 - $168,000 per annum.
- Software Engineer III (Req#21-10643): Lead design & implementation of new software components. Req's: BS(or equiv.)+5yrs. exp. Salary: $170,000 - $238,000 per yr.
- Sr. Manager, Technical Product Management (Req# 21-12719): Focused on leading "Exiting All Datacenters by 2023" KR. Work across each of the Infrastructure Platform Sub-Initiatives, League of Legends, AWS & Valorant. Req's: MS(or equiv.) + 2yrs. exp. Salary: $151,000 - $215,000 per yr.

Principal VFX Artist (Req#19-1306): W/in the R&D Studio, help w/ VFX needs across multiple R&D projects. Req's: BS(or equiv.)+5yrs. exp. Salary: $151,000 - $211,000 per yr.

- UX Designer II (Req#21-13667): Work on early prototype teams to implement prototypes, build wireframes, & presentations that de-risk proof of concepts of production features. Req's: MS(or equiv.) + 2yrs. exp. Salary: $136,000 - $190,000 per yr.
- Data Scientist II (Req#19-5465): Perform data processing & statistical analysis. Visualize & interpret data. Req's: MS(or equiv.) + 2yrs. exp. Or BS(or equiv.)+5yrs. exp. Salary: $156,000 - $218,000 per yr.
- Data Scientist (Req#21-1894): Partner w/product leads to create insights & frameworks that will inform strategic direction of the product. Req's: MS(or equiv.). Salary: $143,000 - $201,000 per yr.

Concept Artist (Req#19-4868) Sketch, ideate & iterate new Environment, Characters/Creatures & VFX concepts in collaboration w/ other dvlpers. Req's: 5 yrs. exp. Salary: $123,000 - $171,000 per yr.

- Lead VFX Artist (Req#20-3101): Provide direction for VFX & art team. Req's: MS(or equiv.) + 2yrs. exp. Salary: $150,000 - $211,000 per yr.

Submit resume w/ refs to: (include Req. # for position applying to) at: riotgames.job.applications@riotgames.com.

COMPUTER/IT
PayPal, Inc. has the following positions available in Los Angeles, CA 90013.:
Data Analyst 2 (Req.# 21-13479): Lead, build & implement analytics funct. for Honey feat., conduct impactful data analysis to improve cust. exp. & inform prod. development. Pay range 119,038 - 147,400.
Must be legally authorized to work in the U.S. without sponsorship. To apply, please send your resume with references, specifying Req.#, by email to: paypaljobs@paypal.com; or by mail: ATTN: HR, Cube 10.3.561, PayPal, Inc. HQ, 2211 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95131. EOE, including disability/vets.

IT
Cornerstone OnDemand, Inc. has an oppty in Santa Monica, CA for a Engrng Mgr. $191,000.00/yr to $191,000.00/yr. May wrk from our HQ office in Santa Monica, CA or reside anywhere in the US & wrk remotely from home. May wrk at other US locatns not prsntly known. Email resume w/Ref# SMASA to recruitment.to@csod.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

Employment

S/W DVLPR
Java Dvlpr – El Segundo, CA. MH Sub I LLC. $88,763.58/yr to $88,763.59/yr. Email resume w/Ref# ESMUG to HR.Recruiting@internetbrands.com.

IT
City National Bank has an oppty for a Full Stack Engr, Tech & Innovtn. $144,725.00/yr to $144,725.00/yr. May wrk from our HQ office in Los Angeles, CA or reside anywhere in US & wrk remotely from home. May wrk at other US locatns not prsntly known. Email resume w/ Ref# LACAN to TalentAcquisition@cnb.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

Sr. Product Designer sought by Spokeo, Inc. for a position based in Pasadena, CA. Must have a bachelor's degree in comp. science, programming, or related and 24 months exp. as a product designer, UI/UX designer (or related) or 48 months exp. as a product designer, UI/UX designer (or related.) Duties include: responsible for the user interface, page interaction, user research, and visual design across devices; create design requirements, wireframes, flow diagrams, product experience architecture, and high-quality mockups; transform countless UX and product ideas into designs that are engaging, innovative and easy to understand. Must have exp. with UI/UX design, user flows, site architecture and prototyping. Can telecommute from any location within the U.S. Salary: $143k-$150k. Resumes to recruiting@spokeo.com

Risk Advisor, Supply Chain & Operations, (CREAS) (Construction Services) (Manager) (Multiple Positions), Ernst & Young U.S. LLP, Los Angeles, CA. Provide capital program and project management consulting services to owners, developers, contractors, lenders and insurers, delivering successful real estate development and construction projects, and serving as the client's representative. Requires travel up to 50%, of which 20% may be international, to serve client needs. Employer will accept any suitable combination of education, training, or experience. $147,921.00 per year. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply online, go to: ey.com/en_us/careers and click on "Careers - Job Search", then "Search Jobs" (Job Number - 1415754).

Senior Construction Project Manager (Los Angeles, CA): Analyze and approve architecture and structural drawings for plans from Architects and Structural Engineers. $162,500/yr. Resumes: HR, Helio Group, 2999 Overland Ave., Ste 104, Los Angeles, CA, 90064.

Sr. Consultant (Cost Management) - Turner & Townsend (Los Angeles, CA) Salary Range: $110,000-$130,000/year- Must have proof of legal authorization to work in U.S. Apply online at https://www.turnerandtownsend.com/ (under Posting Number 12488K). To view full information about the job opportunities including the full job description, related occupation, education and experience requirements please refer to the internet posting at https://www.turnerandtownsend.com/ under Posting Number above.

Controller for Surfaceone Inc. Bachelor in Accounting or Finance, 2 year exp. as an Accountant or Controller. Salary: 91,042/Year-$120,000/Year. Rsm to H.R. at 1035 N Todd Ave, Azusa, CA 91702.

HEAD COOK: F/T to plan menu & direct/join in daily prep of food in large quantities. Reqs 2 yrs exp in job or as Kitchen Mgr. Mail resume to President, Food Industries Int'l., Inc., 3756 W Ave 40 #N, Los Angeles, CA 90065.

Thai Cooks
1 yr exp Resume to Nine seafood llc 11818 S St #108 Cerritos CA 90703

Thai Cooks
1 yr exp Resume to Thai Amata Inc 3970 Sepulveda Blvd #3 LA CA 90230

Thai Cooks
1 yr exp Resume to Kozy Korner Inc 213 W Wilson Ave Glendale CA 91203

Vanderlande Industries, Inc. is seeking an Site Management Coordinator at our El Segundo, CA to monitor subcontractor's installation work. Req. BS+2 yrs exp. Salary: $103,000 - $108,150. To apply go to https://careers.vanderlande.com/us/ and search by Requisition JR24842 to submit resume.

Customer Service Representative (Job Site: L.A., CA), Current Air Clothing, Inc, Salary: 40k/yr. Send resume to 1015 S. Crocker St. #R-7, L.A., CA 90021

Dentist (Lakewood, CA)
Examine teeth, gums, and related tissues, using dental instruments, x-rays, or other diagnostic equipment, to evaluate dental health, diagnose diseases or abnormalities & plan appropriate treatments. Treat diseases of nerve, pulp, and other dental tissues affecting oral hygiene & retention of teeth. 40hrs/wk, Doctor of Dental Medicine in Dentistry or related & Dentist license in California required. Resume to Babak Yousefi Dental Corporation Attn: Corianda Guenther, 4134 Woodruff Ave, Lakewood, CA 90713

DENTISTS. Von Westernhagen Dental Corporation d/b/a CanAm Dental in Compton, CA seeks qualified dentists. Provide dental services to patients. DDS in Dentistry (Will accept DMD in Dentistry) or foreign acad equiv w/background &/or coursework in prosthodontics, periodontics, endodontics, pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, oral medicine, oral surgery & radiology. Dental license reqd. 40 hrs/wk. $135,000 - $155,000 per year. Send cover letter & resume to: Von Westernhagen Dental Corporation d/b/a CanAm Dental, Attn: Peter Sathakis, 350 N. Clark St, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60654. Refer to ad code: DD-102745.

Employment

Designer: Bachelor's Degree in Design or Architecture. Bilingual in English & Chinese. Driver's License Class C. Job Location: San Gabriel, CA. Resume to Architecturae Group, 112 N Earle St, San Gabriel CA 91775.

Guidewire Senior Developer sought by Exavalu Inc. in Newport Beach CA to dvlp & configure of components like Underwriting, Rating & Claim in Guidewire InsuranceNow. Req.: MS + 4 yr. exp. Telecommuting Permitted. Sal: $147,410 - $180,000/yr Send resumes to human resources@exavalu.com, REF: SDNP-22.

Director, Platform Build Services (Science 37, Inc; Culver City, CA): Direct, manage, develop, coach, and evaluate the software platform build services team. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Salary: $205,733 per year. Send resume to: Katie Norris, 600 Corporate Pointe #320, Culver City, CA, 90230.

Display Specialists (2) Req'd Associate's deg. in Design, Interior Design, Environ Design or rel. $34,237/yr. Res. Withy, Inc., 785 E. 14th Pl. LA, CA 90021

Electronics Technician, American RENOLIT Corp LA (Commerce, CA). Trblshoot equipmnt failures linked to automatn & elctrcl systs. Reqs Assoc deg in rel fld +5 yrs exp as electrnc/automatn tech., enginr, or rel occ. $41.54/hr. Apply @ Elvira.Rodriguez@renolit.com

EMPLOYMENT SAP Consultants – Analyze, design, dev., impl, test & train customers on SAP B1 s/w & sys. Must have Bachelor's in IT or CS with studies in computers systems analysis & programing using MS-SQL & SAP B1 ERP s/w. Will also accept equiv. to Bachelor's in IT or CS, incl. 3 yrs. exp. using MS-SQL and SAP B1 ERP s/w. Pay range $80,122-108,500. Send cvr ltr, res & references to: HR, Vision33, Inc., 7545 Irvine Center Drive, Ste 200, Irvine, CA 92618. Ref: "CSA" No calls pls.
7545 Irvine Center Drive, Ste 200, Irvine, CA 92618

Building Performance Engineer - ZNV Consulting, LLC. in Santa Monica, CA. Req: Master's in Civil Eng or a rltd Eng field + 12 mths of exp in the job offered & in the use of IESVE. Send resume to gcollins@zeroenvy.com

Calibration Engineer: Calibration, testing, repair, & inspection of precision measurement equipment. Requires: Bach in electrical engrg, electronics engrg, computer engrg or closely related & 5 yrs exp. $146,619/yr. Mail resume: Micro Quality Calibration, Inc., 9168 De Soto Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311

DATA ENGINEER - BASED IN 21301 BURBANK BLVD, WOODLAND HILLS, CA, 91367 but may work remotely from anywhere in US. Work w data eng team, data sci, anal team, business ptnrs to und var data needs and impl sol in gcp lev stdrd tools and dev etl/elt code. $136157.00 per year. Send resume to Attn: 4444 Eire Juarez, Specialist, People Operations, UMG Recordings Inc., 2220 Colorado Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90404. NO phone calls or emails. Ad paid by an equal opportunity employer.

DATA PRODUCTS ENGINEER - BASED IN 21301 BURBANK BLVD, WOODLAND HILLS, CA, 91367 but may work remotely from anywhere in US. Resp. create data strat, data platf, analy, insght, and data eng to deliver capab. $136157.00 per year. Send resume to Attn: 2222 Eire Juarez, Specialist, People Operations, UMG Recordings Inc., 2220 Colorado Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90404. NO phone calls or emails. Ad paid by an equal opportunity employer.

Electrical Engineer 2 sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Irvine, CA: RF & 3d EM modeling and simulation of complete module. Salary range: $100,256 - $117,300 / year. Email resumes to: Angela.Ho@skyworksinc.com. Must Ref: Job code: CA0223LZ.

Embedded Software Engineer sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica office at least 80% of time (average 4 days/wk). Dvlp low level eng. solution on RTOS, Android & Linux-based sys. Base salary: $165,000-$230,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #ESWE-0323-YM. EOE.

Engineer: Bach. in EE, ME or rel. + 2 yrs. Ind. exp. or Master in EE, ME. Use Python & PyTorch, designing data pipelines, 3D computer vision, linear algebra, parallelism, deep learning & optimization to design, train & analyze deep neural networks. F/T. $90,626/yr. to $201,081/yr. Motional AD Inc. Venice, CA. Send resume to J. Curley at Resumes@motional.com & ref. Job#6194. No calls/Agents/visa sponsorship.

Engineer. Work with AI engineering team to craft best-in-class AI technology for our next AAA title. Req. Bach. in Comp. Sci., Comp. Engineering, Mechatronics Engineering, or rel. field or foreign equiv. Any suitable combo of educ, training, &/or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Woodland Hills, CA. Wage range: $98,010/yr to $125,000/yr. Send resume ref#22095 to: K. Finnsson, Activision Publishing, Inc, 2701 Olympic Blvd, Bldg. B, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Product Engineer 2 sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Irvine, CA: Provide product development support. Salary range: $77,584 - $117,300/ year. Email resumes to: Angela.Ho@skyworksinc.com. Must Ref: Job Code: CA0223CJA.

R&D Engineer, Valencia, CA. May require to travel/telecommute. $58,136 to $100,000 per year. Design, develop, & refine technologies, products, specifications, materials, test methods, processes, & equipment. Contact Sarah Okusanya, Boston Scientific Corporation, application@bsci.com. Please include reference H4872-00148. (EOE)

Employment

Engineering Technician 4 sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Irvine, CA: Supports engineering testing of electronic modules. Salary range: $70,387 - $87,500/year. Email resumes to Angela Ho: Angela.Ho@skyworksinc.com. Must Ref: CA0123GS.

Flight Dynamics and Controls Engineer in El Segundo, CA: MS in Aerospace Engineering or rltd. 113,298/year-125,000/year. Send CV to: HR, Skyryse, 777 S. Aviation Blvd., Ste. 230, El Segundo, CA 90245.

IT SERVICE ENGINEER - BASED IN 21301 BURBANK BLVD, WOODLAND HILLS, CA, 91367 Enad the dsgn and deliv of opt prcss wkflws w IT Service Owners, ITSM. Collab with UMG IT Srv Own to dsgn and dev Srv Del proc w UMG IT Srv Mgmt to implmnt these proc. $136157.00 per year. Send resume to Attn: 3333 Eire Juarez, Specialist, People Operations, UMG Recordings Inc., 2220 Colorado Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90404. NO phone calls or emails. Ad paid by an equal opportunity employer.

Zwift, Inc. seeks Lead QA Engineer - Automation in Long Beach, CA (Various Unanticipated Worksites) to create comprehensive written test plans & test cases. Reqs. Master's degree or foreign equiv in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Computer Engineering or rel. field & 2 yrs' post-baccalaureate experience as Quality Assurance Engineer or rel. role. Exp. must incl. AWS API Gateway, IAM User Role Testing, Subnets, Cloud Formation Configurations, REST API, Automation Test Scripts w/ Selenium Java API & Eclipse IDE. Position will be headquartered in Long Beach, CA, but is a telecommuting position, allowing for remote employment from various unanticipated worksites throughout the U.S. Salary fr. $124,987K to $155K/yr. Email resume: People@Zwift.com.

NETWORK DESIGN ENGINEER - BASED IN 21301 BURBANK BLVD, WOODLAND HILLS, CA, 91367 but may work remotely from anywhere in US. Resp. create sol arch stndrd, and provi input on tech arch. Rev infrastr and sec arch and des and make recomm on viab improv and adj input. $136157.00 per year. Send resume to Attn: 1111 Eire Juarez, Specialist, People Operations, UMG Recordings Inc., 2220 Colorado Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90404. NO phone calls or emails. Ad paid by an equal opportunity employer.

The Cheesecake Factory Inc in Calabasas, CA seeks a Network Security Engineer to manage & support complex LAN/WAN & security infrastructure enhancements. no trvl, no WFH. Salary: $116,709/ year. Apply through company website: https://tinyurl.com/52j7yw43

Faraday&Future Inc., Gardena, CA seeks:
Senior Manager, Corporate Development and Strategy (CA0223AG): Lead strategic and quantitative analysis. Salary range: $97,344 - $190,000/year.
NVH/Durability Lead Engineer (CA051022RB): Perform durability and NVH tests. Salary range: $127,691 - $150,000.00/year.
Director of Safety CAE - Homologation (CA042222AH): Review engineering design against legal requirements. Around 20% of Intl & Domestic travel. Salary range: $202,738 - $250,000/year.
Audio-Video and Virtual Reality Specialist (CA-030922SO): Schedule and operate 3D/VR design and engineering reviews. Up to 20% domestic travel. Salary range: $76,752 - $125,000/year.
Email resumes to resumes@ff.com. Ref job code #.

D Element Group LLC/ Project Managing Engineer. Comm. w/ clients to determine project reqs. & obj.; Dvlp. project plans;ID., rev., & select vendors or consultants to meet project needs;Propose, rev., & approve mods. to project plans;Produce & distribute project docs. Req: Bach. deg. in Ind. Engr. or rel. field; Exp.: 16 mos. exp. in Ind. Engr. or rel. field Mail résumé to D Element Group LLC, 611 Reyes Dr., Walnut, CA 91789

Bookkeeper (Torrance, CA) Perform bookkeeping for beauty shop. Highschool/CED. $35256/yr. Resume to: Cutaway Inc. 4007 Pacific Coast Hwy, Torrance, CA 90505

Test Staff Engineer sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Newbury Park, CA: Prepare test and diagnostic programs. Salary range: $114,171 - $184,800/year. Email resumes to: Angela.Ho@skyworksinc.com. Must Ref: CA1021MS.

ENGINEERING

• Video Engineer •
PRG, L.L.C., San Fernando, CA. Video Eng. Prepare, repair, and maintain broadcast equip. Req. 2yrs Video Eng. exp providing tech. exp. on intern'l live even touring prods; 50% domestic/intern'l travel. 80K-100K/year. Email resume to careers@prg.com, Ref #VE2023.
See ad above.

Employment

Reliability/FA Principal Engineer sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Newbury Park, CA: Writes comprehensive failure analysis reports. Salary range: $139,277 - $207,700/ year. Email resumes to: Angela.Ho@skyworksinc.com. Must Ref: CA0123JL.

Senior Algorithm Engineer sought by Masimo Corporation, Irvine, CA: Create new non-invasive measurements & enable measurement tech. to be applied to new applications. $122,000-$182,000/yr. Email resumes to Delora Sandoval: dsandoval@masimo.com
Must ref: IR0126JK

Senior Equipment Engineer sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Newbury Park, CA: Study equipment performance and reliability. Salary range: $114,608 - $146,300/year. Email resumes to: Angela.Ho@skyworksinc.com. Must Ref: Job code: CA0622AL.

Senior Project Engineer (Los Angeles, CA) Hire/train engineers, prep & monitor construction projects from onset to completion. Provide PE designation stamp of approval. Reqs Bach's in Civil Engg w/ CA state PE license, 2 yrs in the job or as a Project Engineer w/exp in commercial/residential construction industry, ADA compliance, regulations & permits; blueprints, dsgns, spec prep, estimating & bidding. Remote work available w/in commuting distance to office. Sal: $108,971/yr. Resumes to: HR: Hoffman Management Construction Corp., 984 McGarry St., #101, LA, CA 90021.

Taboola, Inc. seeks Software Engineer in Los Angeles, CA. Qualified candidates must have Bachelor's degree or foreign equivalent in Software Engineering, Computer Engineering or closely-related field and three years of experience developing frontend and backend services, and architecting and supervising complex data workflows. Must have experience: managing big data software pipelines; overseeing data analytics; implementing algorithms; enhancing bottlenecks in software stack; and designing, building, shipping, measuring, and maintaining backend services. Must have experience with the following tools/technologies/skills: HTML/HTML5, Kafka, Spark, Hbase, SQL, API, JavaScript, CSS/CSS3, AngularJS, Big Data, Scala, and Hadoop. Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to HR, Taboola, Inc., 16 Madison Square W, Fl 7, New York, NY 10010. The pay range for this position in Los Angeles is $179,520 – $200,000. The pay offered may vary depending on several factors such as job-related knowledge, skills, and experience. We may offer several perks as part of the compensation package that include a discretionary bonus, equity, flexible PTO, medical/dental/vision insurance, a competitive 401(k) match, paid parental leave, etc.

CSS Payroll Co, L.P. (Los Angeles, CA) seeks Software Engineer (Back-End) to collab w/ Prdct Mngrs, Dsgnrs, & Frontend Engnrs to concptlze & dvlp new sftwre features for growng custmr base. Reqs Bach in CompSci, Comp Engg or rltd fld +3yrs exp in pos offrd or sftwre dvpmt or sftwre engg pos. All reqd exp mustve incld dvlpng & operatng IT sys usng commn lnguages incl C++, C#, Go, Java, or Pythn; utlzng cloud srvcs incl AWS, Azure or GCP; wrkng w/ distrbtd sys, microsrvces IT wrkflws, big data, query optmzatn tchnqs, storage, netwrkng & makng tchncl archtctre decisns; wrkng thru full SDLC from dsgn & implmntn to testng & dploymt; wrkng w/ data structres, algrthms, threading, & info retrievl. Telecommtng permttd from any US locatn. Mult pos open. Salary: $178,980-$260,000/yr. Email res to catarino.ruiz@cloudkitchens.com.

Sr. Automation Engineer in Glendale, CA Salary $132,870. Reference this ad and send resume to JSat Automation Inc, 1730 Walton Road, Ste 100, Blue Bell, PA 19422 or samantha.ziegler@jsatautomation.com

Experian Information Solutions, Inc. in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Staff Software Development Engineer for analysis, development, validation, and implementation of models in Big Data platform using AWS tools. Role incl. a comprehensive benefits pkg including hlth, life and disability insurance, PTO incl 12 paid holidays & parental & family care leave, employee stock purchase plan and 401(k) plan w/ company match. Send resumes and salary inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at Amy.Harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.269

System Integrity Engineering, Inc dba Structural Integrity Engineering Inc. in Chatsworth, CA seeks Structures Design Engineer to plan, conceptualize, & create mechanical designs for new products. No trvl, no WFH. $127,691 /yr. Send CV: rvartanian@sieinc.com

Employment

Software Engineer (Ad Marketplace) sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk). Dsgn, dvlp & modify s/ware apps & sys. Base salary: $130,000-$190,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #SWE-0323-YC. EOE.

Staff Data Engineer (Altruist Corp., Culver City, CA): Work w/prod & tech teams to understand different entities & objects. Define model to store source data feeds transctnl systm & anlytcs. Reqs: Bach Comp Sci, or rltd field (foreign eqiv ok) + 6 yrs exp inrltd role & bldg lg scale data warehouse systems. Alternate reqs., Master's Comp Sci, or rltd field (foreign eqiv ok) + 4 yrs same exp as above. Telecom/remote work permitted. Salary $140-170,000/yr. Apply via email careers2@altruist.com & specify code: S271975C.

Engineer: Infineon Technologies Americas Corp. is seeking a Staff Engineer, Mixed-Signal IC Design (El Segundo, CA) to prfrm anlg & mxd-sgnl intgrtd crcut (IC) dsgn wth Cadence Tools as well as transistor lvl crcut dsgn incldng crtng schmtcs, gnrtng netlists, & running smltns. Req's a Master's deg. in E.E, Comp. Eng. or a rltd fld & 3 yrs of exp. in anlg mxd sgnl IC dsgn. Mst hve exp. wth: Device physics & smcndctr tchnlgy; MOS transistor dvc, hgh vltg & low vltg MOS transistors; Cadence Virtuoso EDA dsgn tools for dsgn, lyot & vrfctn; Wrking IC's usng BCD tchnlgy; Dsgn'ng linear amplfrs & linear rgltrs, vltg & crrnt rfrnc, vltg & crrnt snsng, ovr-vltg & ovr-crrnt prtctn, ovr-tmprture prtctn, undr-vltg lckout/pwr-on rest blcks; Dsg'ng in hgh vltg drvrs; Dsgn'ng DAC & ADC crcts; Lyout tchnqs rgrdng hgh-prcsion anlog crcuts, such as dvc mtchng, crss-cplng, prxmty effct, cmmon cntroid & interdigitation; Bhvior mdlng of anlog circuit; Top lvl lyout & florplnning; ESD prtctn circuits & Ltchp prvntion; IC pckgng & bndng; Lab equip., inclding oscilloscope & mltmtr; & Intrfcng wth othr funct. grps, sch as app. team & mrktng team. Slry: $123,926.00-$136,318.60/yr. Infineon requires all new U.S. employees & contractors to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Anyone unable to be vaccinated, either because of a sincerely held religious belief or a medical condition or disability that prevents them from being vaccinated, can request a reasonable accommodation. Email resumes to: JobApplication@infineon.com & reference job code DFP087.

Construction Estimator in Pomona, CA: Please send resume to AME Builders, Inc. 1242 Transit Ave. Pomona, CA 91766 wage range from $40,290 to $46,000.

FASHION Fashion Designer Associate Degree in Fashion Design or related req'd
Resume to Patricia Oh
Very J, INC DBA Loveriche
727 E. Pico Blvd. Suite #1
Los Angeles, CA. 90021

Fashion Designer: Req'd: Associate's deg. in Fashion Design or rel $53,082/yr. Res. Withy, Inc., 785 E. 14th Pl. LA, CA 90021

Commercial Finance Lead for The Boston Consulting Group in Manhattan Beach, CA to lead internal and external financial, business analysis, and time and billing reporting. Req. Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv. in Accounting, Finance or related field & 6 years of finance and/or accounting experience within a professional services organization. Up to 15% travel (int'l & dom) required. Salary: $116,681 - $141,000/year. Resume to DVMBCFL@bcg.com.

Financial Analyst: MBA, MA/MS Finance, Acctg or rlat + 1 yr exp. Analyze co. fin info. & assist w/ acctg reporting; $38.36 - $46.70 hour; Resume to/Job Location: P. Tao, Intertrans Express, Inc., 2209 W. Valley Blvd., Alhambra, CA 91803.

Financial Analyst for Cool Pai Inc. Bachelor of Business or Finance. Salary $62,442/Year. Rsm to H.R. at 20153 Paseo Del Prado, Walnut, CA 91789

Manager, Capital Markets & Accounting Advisory Services (Mult Pos), PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Los Angeles, CA. Adv clnts on complex fin report iss around delas & other transform events. Req Bach's deg or foreign equiv in Acct, Bus Admin, Tax, or rel + 5 yrs post-bach rel work exp; OR a Master's deg or foreign equiv in Acct, Bus Admin, Tax, or rel + 3 yr rel work exp. Req US CPA lic or foreign equiv. 80% telecommtng permitted. Mst be able to commute to designated local office. Travel up to 60% req. Salary $129,000-$129,000/yr. Apply by email at US_PwC_Career_Recruitment@pwc.com, referencing Job Code CA3677.

PETS

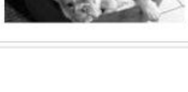
MARKETPLACE

To advertise your pets, log on to placeanad.latimes.com/pets-for-sale

Los Angeles Times

Dogs

FRENCH BULLDOG Adorable Lilac Blue & Tan Frenchies Available Now! AKC Champion Pedigree. Please visit us at www.LindsayLoveFrenchies.com for more details. $4,000. **208-719-1917**



Dogs

LABRADOR RETRIEVER Silveroselabs.com AKC Striking Champagne, Charcoal & Silver Pups Shots/Wormed/Microchipped/Guarantee Email: Infosilveroselabs@gmail.com **559 246-0676**

GOLDENDOODLE Adorable Micro Mini Goldendoodles Born Nov. 8. Adult weight 13 - 25 lbs. up to date on shots, and de-worming. $1750, price includes transportation. farmhousegoldens.com **208-240-1287.**

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

TINEHZ

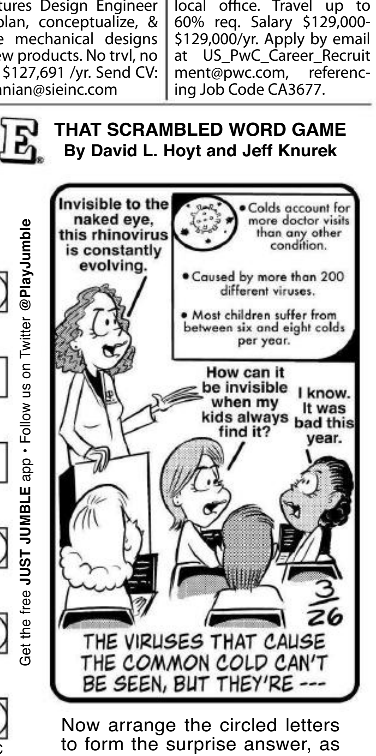
NCECTA

SGPIOS

FGUTOH

NNILEO

TBINET



Invisible to the naked eye, this rhinovirus is constantly evolving.
• Colds account for more doctor visits than any other condition.
• Caused by more than 200 different viruses.
• Most children suffer from between six and eight colds per year.
How can it be invisible when my kids always find it?
I know. It was bad this year.
THE VIRUSES THAT CAUSE THE COMMON COLD CAN'T BE SEEN, BUT THEY'RE —
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble
3-26 B6

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

Man tried to ram two Riverside park rangers, police say

By Noah Goldberg

A man who tried to ram his car into the vehicle of two Riverside park rangers and fired a gun after being spotted making a drug deal has been arrested, police said.

Two Riverside park police specialists — unarmed civilians who patrol the parks — were roaming Bryant Park in the Riverside neighborhood of Arlanza on March 10 around 9:30 a.m. when a vehicle sped by them recklessly and met up with another car in a park parking lot, according to the Riverside Police Department.

The officers witnessed a brief interaction between the two vehicles, which then began to leave the lot when they saw the patrol specialists, according to police.

"As both cars were leaving the parking lot, one of the involved vehicles accelerated toward the [police truck] in an attempt to ram or strike them, but fortunately they were able to avoid being hit," the department said in a press release.

The two officers fled the scene and heard gunshots coming from the car that had tried to ram them, according to police.

They called for backup, but neither of the cars were immediately found.

Further investigation into the incident led the Riverside Police Department to a video that "confirmed one of the involved vehicles deliberately sped toward the specialists" and fired a gun — though police said the gun was not fired at the officers.

Police used search warrants that looked into social media accounts to identify the driver of the car that attempted to ram the police specialists as Jean Marcos Jimenez, 19, who had been arrested in August on narcotics and assault weapons possession charges, police said. There was also a boy in the car, though police said he was not believed to be responsible for the shooting.

Riverside Police Department

DRUGS, cash and a gun were seized in the arrest.

When officers located Jimenez in Norco on March 16, he tried to escape "by intentionally ramming one of their vehicles, but he was safely taken into custody," police said in the release.

Police said they found 9 ounces of what was suspected to be fentanyl, 120 ounces of marijuana, 19 ounces of psilocybin mushrooms, hundreds of packages of marijuana and mushroom candy, a handgun, ammunition and cash inside Jimenez's car.

Jimenez was charged with assault with a deadly weapon and negligent discharge of a firearm, among other offenses, according to police. He is being held at the Robert Presley Detention Center on $350,000 bail.

USC opens a hub in Washington

School is expanding its presence in nation's capital with a campus in Dupont Circle.

By Jessica Garrison

The University of Southern California announced Wednesday that as part of a huge expansion of its presence in Washington, D.C., it had opened a USC Capital Campus in the city's Dupont Circle neighborhood.

The 60,000-square-foot building, for which USC paid $49.4 million, will play host to "high-level conversations" between opinion leaders and serve as a "hub for researchers and policy experts," officials said in a news release.

"Washington, D.C., is the natural place for us to establish a thriving hub. It is a nexus for the arts, public policy organizations, research agencies and foundations," USC President Carol Folt said in a statement.

She added that the university, which operates numerous community programs in Los Angeles, plans to do the same in D.C. The campus also plans to work with local high schools and community colleges.

USC has a number of students pursuing studies in the nation's capital, but the new campus will expand opportunities for both students and faculty. Officials said there would be new undergraduate and graduate programs in the arts, sciences, government and journalism.

Mayor Muriel Browser Washington, D.C., predicted the new campus would be "catalytic" for boosting development at D.C.'s northern end following a COVID-19 slump in office activity.

University officials said the building was designed to LEED Gold environmental standards, which include a focus on energy efficiency and minimizing emissions, and features an outdoor rooftop deck with views of the skyline. The building will include study areas, conference rooms and a USC bookstore.

Alan Karchmer

THE CAPITAL CAMPUS will host "high-level conversations" with opinion leaders, USC officials said.

The university's marching band will travel to Washington next month for a grand opening ceremony.

USC joins a number of universities beefing up their presence in the nation's capital. The Washington Post reported that Johns Hopkins University recently purchased and is renovating a 400,000-square-foot building, once home to the Newseum, for its D.C. campus, which will be open by fall. The University of California also has a D.C. flagship, near Scott Circle.

Copter crash kills 2 in the Inland Empire

The only people on board are identified as Murrieta residents. NTSB will investigate.

By Ruben Vives

Two people killed Friday in a helicopter crash in a hilly, unincorporated area of Riverside County were identified Saturday as Mark Carter, 61, and Dennis Foster, 62, both of Murrieta.

The Riverside County Sheriff's Office said deputies were called to the crash site near Perris at 12:39 p.m. Upon arrival, they found the downed helicopter.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the deceased were the only two on board the Bell 407 copter, an aircraft often used in law enforcement, by air medics and for movie filming.

The National Transportation Safety Board will lead the investigation into the cause of the crash and provide any updates, according to the FAA.

Times staff writer Taryn Luna contributed to this report.

KTLA

DEPUTIES were called to the crash site near Perris on Friday. They found the downed copter on arrival.

JOBS

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Los Angeles Times

Employment

Financial Quantitative Analysts, Los Angeles, CA: Perform trend analysis on cost of funds & daily cash flow to eval liquidity & financing opts across debt structure. Design & build analytical models to eval potential project profit & impact on existing credit facs using Excel & VBA & provide perf imprvmnt reco to top mgmt .Prep & analyze ABS data to support bond structure, pricing & negotiation of deal terms w/ banks and rating agencies. Salary: $70,366 to $90,000/yr. Telecomm Permitted. Send res to: Westlake Services, LLC DBA Westlake Financial, 4751 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

Sr. Financial Manager: Req'd: Bachelor's in Econ., Finance, or related. $91,042 to $120,000/year. Mail Resume: Cha Health Systems, Inc. 3731 Wilshire Blvd. #850, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Food Preparation Workers: Prepare seafood & vegetables as instructed; Clean & sanitize work areas. Wage - $18/hour. Mail Res to: Able Food & Service Inc, 1120 Hermosa Ave, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 (Job Site)

Food Service Managers: Wage $40,747/YR Mail Resume: The Real Tomato, Inc. 2130 E Broadway Long Beach, CA 90803

Food Service Workers: Prepare/serve food & beverage; clean service areas. Wage - $17/hour. Mail Resume to Hi Cook, Inc., 8303 W. Garden Grove Blvd, Garden Grove, CA 92844 (Job Site)

Cargo and Freight Agent (Compton, CA) Expedite and route movement of incoming & outgoing cargo and freight shipments in airline, train, and trucking terminals and shipping docks. Take orders from customers and arrange pickup of freight & cargo for delivery to loading platform. Prepare and examine bills of lading to determine shipping charges & tariffs. 40hrs/wk, High School/GED diploma or equivalent & Min. 1 year of experience as Cargo and Freight Agent or related required. Resume to Ocean Blue Express Inc. Attn: Sung Ho Sun, 255 W Victoria ST, Compton, CA 90220

Graphic Designer. Req'd: BA in Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Design, or related. $41,579 to $48,000/year. Mail Resume: Umgee U.S.A., Inc. 1565 E 23rd St. Los Angeles, CA 90011

Graphic Designer (Job Site: L.A., CA), Current Air Clothing, Inc. B.A. Req'd. Salary:$55k/yr. Send resume 1015 S. Crocker St. #R-7 L.A., CA 90021

Hair Stylist Assistant: Assist the stylist; Kaju Hair.com, Inc. 3720 W. 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90020

Herald Christian Health Center seeks Behavioral Health Therapist. Mstrs. in Marriage & Family Therapy or related field reqd. Must be CA licensed MFT. Conduct psychosocial assessments, provide counseling/therapy. Worksite: El Monte, CA. Mail resume to 3401 Aerojet Ave., El Monte, CA 91731.

HR Administrator: f/t. Perform HR & personnel-related duties; MA in Biz Admin, HR or equiv req'd. Resume: MTM Construction, 16035 Phoenix Dr, City of Industry, CA 91745

Employment

Human Resources Specialist for healthcare/hospital @ $48,859/yr. Mail to The Ambient Hospice, Inc., 6350 Laurel Canyon Blvd., #330, North Hollywood, CA 91606.

Data Scientist needed at Great American Custom. Work with structured data and data visualization; use Python, R, SQL. Remote work permissible. Send resume to: Kimberly.Randall@gamcustom.com

ServiceTitan, Inc. seeks IT Product Manager in Glendale, CA wrkng w biz anlsts & cros-fnctionl stkehldrs 2 solv & creat new biz systms w/in th Khoros com's pltfrm. Telcom is avail 4 ths pos. Slry offrd: $148k Send Resume to: rmclaughlin@servicetitan.com, Subject: Ref# ITPM022023.

Law Clerk: Prepare briefs, legal memoranda, or statements of issues involved in family, civil, and immigration cases, including appropriate suggestions or recommendations. Annual Salary: $55,286. Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree rqr'd. Send Resume to Law Offices of Jane Chung, APLC. 3435 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 3050, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

LEGAL
Buda Law Group seeks (2) FT Immigration Paralegal Managers in Arcadia, CA to prep Immigration Related Forms & Letters. Have knowl & exp for employment & family immigration cases. Prepare affidavits or other docs, such as legal correspondence, & organize & maintain docs in paper or electronic filing system. Prepare legal documents, including briefs, pleadings, appeals, app forms, & contracts. Prepare cases for submission to the USCIS by performing tasks such as printing & organizing exhibits. Investigate facts & law of cases & search pertinent sources, such as public records & internet sources, to determine causes of action & to prepare cases. Meet w/clients & other professionals to discuss details of case. Manage 1-2 other subordinate Paralegals. Chinese Language ability pref'd. BA of Law or Business req's. 36 mos exp as a Paralegal req'd. Email resume or CV & Cover Letter to john.buda@budalawgroup.net

Tapad, Inc. in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Account Management Account Manager to monitor renewal dates for assigned clients and ensure contracts are continuous. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Role incl. a comprehensive benefits pkg including hlth, life and disability insurance, PTO incl 12 paid holidays & parental & family care leave, employee stock purchase plan and 401(k) plan w/ company match. Send resumes and salary inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at Amy.Harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.375

Operations Manager Req'd: Master in Bus. Admin., Medical Sci., or rel Res: Jong S. Yoon, DMD, Inc. 520 S Virgil Ave #101, LA, CA 90020

All for J, LLC : Store Manager : Direct and coordinate activities of restaurant business concerned with service and food production. Min. Bachelor of Business Administration, Economics or related is required. Send resume to 879 Michigan Blvd. #H, Pasadena CA 91107.

Employment

Energy Mgr. (Culver City, CA) - Oversite of Energy Mgmt (EM) Programs to incl design/integration/finance. Work order mgmt, energy benchmark, utility bill track/analysis, est. policies for EM. Audit/eval energy use, costs/efficiency, plan energy initiatives for new construct/renos/retrofits. Scout new tech/best practices/assist with contract negotiations. Eval op perform of facility sys/equip. Quantify carbon footprint reduct/ & manage carbon offset dbase/tools, Interface with vendors. Use Bldg Lucid to perform real time analytics on bldg ops. Familiar with energy intensity/carbon emission factors to compile electric/water/natural gas rpts. Anticip. base salary is w/i stated range of $90,626-$103,500/yr. 40 hrs/wk. Req: Master's in Green Technologies, Engrg +1 yr of post-bach exp in job offrd or similar occup. Email resume to: pando@spe.sony.com, Ref: EMGR01. Sony Pictures Studios, 10202 W. Washington Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232. Principals only. US work auth req'd if hired. EOE.

Japanese restaurant seeks a Food Service Manager in LA, CA. HS Diploma/GED and 2 yrs. of exp. as Food Svc Mgr or any managerial positions req. From $70,138 per yr. Send resume to Peace 3, Inc. dba Aizen: 232 E 2nd St. Ste. B, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Experian Information Solutions, Inc. in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Product Manager II to support the full lifecycle of Experian Mortgage products and product features from market requirements to product release. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Role incl. a comprehensive benefits pkg including hlth, life and disability insurance, PTO incl 12 paid holidays & parental & family care leave, employee stock purchase plan and 401(k) plan w/ company match. Send resumes and salary inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at Amy.Harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.413

Consumerinfo.com, Inc.
in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Sr. CRM Manager to lead daily operations for the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) team and end-to-end campaign development and execution using CRM or campaign management tools. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Role incl. a comprehensive benefits pkg including hlth, life and disability insurance, PTO incl 12 paid holidays & parental & family care leave, employee stock purchase plan and 401(k) plan w/ company match. Send resumes and salary inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at Amy.Harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.474

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Employment

Consumerinfo.com, Inc. in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of DevSecOps Staff Engineer Expert to continuously improve the security of our e-commerce products. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Role incl. a comprehensive benefits pkg including hlth, life and disability insurance, PTO incl 12 paid holidays & parental & family care leave, employee stock purchase plan and 401(k) plan w/ company match. Send resumes and salary inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at Amy.Harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.517

Asia Marketing Specialist: Rsch/analyze Asia precious metal mkt&pur behav data in multicultures. Statistically collect/monitor mktg&distrib. Convert data to mktg strategies, determine product gaps, distrib priorities&e-business for impr sales. $60715-84K/y. Must have MBA degree, complete Info Sys Anal and Design, Glob Mktg, Culture and Change courses. Mail resume: Rosland Capital, LLC, 11766 Wilshire Blvd, Ste 1200, Los Angeles, CA 90025

MARKETING
Business Development Specialist Research & analyze statistical data & market info to forecast business trends & predict sales at home & abroad; prepare market reports; identify market opportunity; gather & analyze competitors' market data & info; participate in various components of promotional marketing efforts. Qualification: BA in business administration, business management or related field; full knowledge of int'l trade & finance, int'l business & management, marketing, promotion management, consumer behavior, and customs practice; strong analytical & analysis ability & market research project management. Mail resume to Bolide Technology Group, Inc. at 468 South San Dimas Ave. San Dimas, CA 91773. Attn: HR

Marketing Specialist (Job Site: Burbank, CA), Wilshire Royale Hotel, BA degree req'd. Salary:$45k/yr. Send resume to 2011 W. Olive Ave. Burbank, CA 91506

Mktg Mgr: AB in Mkg BA Comm. Est, promote & maintain co's brand to generate new biz opportunities. Salary: $44803/yr. Work/Resume to: Eleven 11 Condos, 11950 San Vicente Blvd #200, LA, CA 90049.

Network Operations Specialist: Req'd AS deg. in Comp Sci., Comp Info Sys or rel. Res. Choice Tech, Inc. 2847 W. 8th St., LA, CA 90005

Order Clerk: f/t; high school diploma or equiv.; Resume: JACK JACK LLC @ 1150 N. Redgum St., STE E, Anaheim, CA 92806

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Import and wholesales company in Gardena, CA. High School Diploma and 2 years of experience as an Operations Manager or related req'd. Annual salary offered is $62,982. Mail resume: U.S. Jaclean, Inc., 1816 W. 135th Street, Gardena, CA 90249, Attn: Yoshida

Employment

Operations Manager (Los Angeles, CA) Manage game design production & development & ensure deliveries are on time, on budget & consistent w/development design specs. Create & implement performance metrics for production design & quality assurance. Dvlp & execute launch & distribution strategies. Manage art assets optimization, integration, & intellectual property retention. Manage production operations for design & dvlpmnt, incl 2D conceptualizations, 3D modeling, animations, & visual effects. Manage production operations in Jira, implementing dashboards for each dept w/ the roles & responsibilities. Integrate Agile Scrum methodologies in production processes. Req. 4 yrs of exp in the position. Mail CV to 1802 South Redondo Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90019, Devoted Studios. Attn: Ninel Anderson, CEO

Title: Film Production & Operation Specialist
Duties: Responsible for running the operational layout of the production company. To that effect, must be able to delegate and oversee household staff, grounds crew, and creative development staff simultaneously. Along with this, must digitally oversee employees across all entities within the company; Organizing and maintaining their personal records, timecards, pay slips, credit card use, and expense reports. Must be able to analyze and assess the quality of prospective development opportunities. Actively search for intellectual properties and review proposed projects. Determine whether each proposition is suitable for the company's brand and creative direction. With that in mind, must have extensive understanding of story, character, and the ability to communicate the universality of the human condition. Have first-hand experience in writing, directing, producing, and performing. Perform and operate a camera for our in-house news media productions. Work with film makers to recommend an artist or screenplay to be considered for production. Must have at least a Bachelor's degree of Art in Theatre and 24 months of experience. Must have strong organizational skills, classical acting training, and coordinated creative collaboration. Must be proficient in storytelling.
Job Location: Venice, CA
Company:
Team Downey, LLC
Submit Application:
hiring@teamdowney.com
Salary range:
$64,000 - $74,000 annually
Hours:
Full-time/40 hours per week

Production Control & Planning Mgr sought by Santa Monica Seafood Company in Rancho Dominguez CA to devise efficient systems and processes. Req.: MS + 1 yr. exp. Salary: $116,355 - $140K. Send resume to: HR@smseafood.com

New Development Project Manager - Research, scout, and identify new potential properties and site for purchase and real estate development. Salary $34,903/year. Mail resumes to David, Bensoussan Investment Services Inc., 1976 S. La Cienega Blvd., # C 640, Los Angeles, CA 90034.

Los Angeles Times
Classified
Los Angeles Times

Employment

Advantech Corp. in Irvine, CA seeks 1 f/t Project Engineer to develop industrial computing solutions for hi-tech enterprises with strong hardware & software knowledges. $79k to $87k p/y. Mail resume to: Brenda Hunt @ 380 Fairview Way, Milpitas, CA 95035

Product Engineer 2 sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Irvine, CA: Create and manage product documentation. Salary range: $77,584 - $117,300/ year. Email resumes to: Angela.Ho@skyworksinc.com. Must Ref: Job Code: CA0323FA.

Experian Marketing Solutions LLC in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Project Management Analyst Expert to Support the product, Solution Design, Engineering and Analytics teams through the use and understanding of analytical tools, machine learning models in a big data cloud environment like Snowflake, AWS. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Role incl. a comprehensive benefits pkg including hlth, life and disability insurance, PTO incl 12 paid holidays & parental & family care leave, employee stock purchase plan and 401(k) plan w/ company match. Send resumes and salary inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at Amy.Harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.343

Quality Control Analyst. Req'd: AA in Chemistry, Chemical Engr., or rel. Mail Resume To: Cargo Gate International, Inc., 2441 W. 205th St. Suite C2008, Torrance, CA 90501

Receptionist: f/t; Medical Clinic; Conduct receptionist's duties; High School Diploma or Equiv.; Resume: Hee Soo Jeong, M.D., APMC @ 2675 W. Olympic Blvd., #202, Los Angeles, CA 90006

Market Research Analyst: Apply by mail only Appulate, Inc., 30700 Russell Ranch Rd., #250, Westlake Village, CA 91362, Attn. CEO

Consultant - Consumer & Retail (The Boston Consulting Group, Inc. in Los Angeles, CA): Support the design and development of long-term competitive business strategies for BCG's clients within the Consumer and Retail sector in order to enhance client management techniques particularly as they relate to quality management and organizational re-engineering. Req. Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv. in Business Administration, Behavioral Economics, Cognitive Science, Marketing, or related & 2 years of exp. as a management consultant or business analyst providing business strategy recommendations on pricing and go-to-market strategies for companies in the consumer and retail sector. Up to 80% dom./int'l travel. Salary: $190,000 - $225,400/year. Send resume to BCGCT@bcg.com. Reference Position Number: 04-2023.

Ice Cream Attendant (Job Site: L.A., CA), Holy Roly Melrose LLC, Salary: 40k/yr. Send resume to 7266 Melrose Ave., L.A., CA 90046

ServiceTitan, Inc. seeks Salesforce CPQ / Billing Architect in Glendale, CA 2 dsgn SaaS flfillmnt arch usng CPQ/Billng, Slesfrc CRM, Prdct Prvsinng. Telcom is avail 4 ths pos. Slry Offrd: $162k to $216k. Send Resume to: rmclaughlin@servicetitan.com, Subject: Ref# SCBA022023.

Employment

Sales Representative (Wholesale Health Food): Apply by mail only to Erom, Inc., 14630 Industry Cr., La Mirada, CA 90638, attn. CEO

Legal Secretary for employment law firm. Mail to Davtyan Law Firm, Inc., 400 N Brand Blvd Ste 700, Glendale, CA 91203.

S/W ENGR
Belkin Int'l, Inc. has an oppty in El Segundo, CA for a Prncpl S/W Qlty Engr. $125,557.00/yr to $145,027.00/yr. Email resume w/Ref# ESAAH to Talent@belkin.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

Software Engineer: Develop a multithreading application w/ proper synchronization. Applicant must have Bach. Deg. in Data Science, Software Development, Computer Science, or related. Mail resume to Phase Margin, Inc. at 21241 Ventura Blvd Ste 272, Woodland Hills, CA 91364 Attn: Ms. McLane

Commerce Media Holdings, LLC dba The NTWRK as an opening for Software Engineer in Los Angeles, CA. Duties: Work at all levels of the stack, from React, React Native, HTML, CSS to AWS, Go, SQ. May telecommute from anywhere in U.S. Annual salary: $150k-$180k. The salary range listed here has been provided to comply with local regs & reps a potential base salary range for this role. Actual salaries may vary depend on exp & location. To apply, send resume to: britt@thentwrk.com and include Ref #: sc9NOscG

Software Engineer. Collaborate with designers, artists, & engineers to ensure robust & reliable game experience on wide range of mobile devices. Req. Bach. in Comp. Sci., Software Engineering, or rel. field or foreign equiv. & 2 yrs exp in job or 2 yrs exp in rel. occup. Any suitable combo of educ, training &/or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Irvine, CA. Wage range: $134,992/yr to $201,880/yr. Send resume ref#22044 to K. Finnsson, Blizzard Entertainment, Inc., PO Box 18979, Irvine, CA 92623.

Sr Software Engineer for Oscar Management Corporation (Los Angeles,CA). Sr engineer on a team respnsbl for investigatg existg code fnctnality & testg new featrs for Oscar's bkend messagng & notifictn srvcs, which enable mmbrs to commcate w/ Oscar regardg their hlthcr. Lead the dvlpmt of design of scalable, fault-tolrnt, & hi-prfrmnc sftwr features that slot into the existg distribtd system architctr. Reqs a Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in Comp Sci, Comp Engnrg, or a reltd technl field. Reqs at least 2 yrs of prior exp as a Sftwr Engnr or Jr Sftwr Engnr for a hlth insurance co. Full-term exp must incl: Gatherg technl reqmts for new features by investigatg existg code functnality; writg design docs detailg how to modify the existg system to allow for new fnctnality; designg and buildg scalable, fault-tolrnt, and hi-prfrmnc features that slot into the existg distribtd system architctr; respondg to & invstigatg sftwr svcs failures; writg efficient batch processg scripts; & utilizg React JS, AWS SQS, Confluent Kafka, PostgreSQL, gRPC, Jaegar Opentracg, Prometheus, Grafana, & prgrammg langs such as JavaScript, Python, & Golang. Telecomm permitted. Salary wage range: $135,960 - $203,940/yr. Send res via email to saugustus@hioscar.com. Must ref 6417766 in subj line.

Employment

First Line Supervisor: Supervise office personnel; 18 months of experience as First Line Supervisor, an Executive or Managerial Level Position within an organization or 18 months of post secondary education; FS USA, Inc. 2751 S. Diamond Bar Blvd, Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Senior Associate, Corporate Tax (Mult Pos), PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Los Angeles, CA. Advs clnts on their local & ovrseas tax affrs, while actng as a strtgic consltnt rel to the bus anlyss, mngng wrkng capital & proft-shrng for prtnrs. Req Bach's deg or foreign equiv in Acct, Bus Admin, Tax or rel + 3 yrs rel wrk exp; OR a Master's deg or foreign equiv in Acct, Bus Admin, Tax or rel + 1 yr rel wrk exp. 80% telecommtng permitted. Mst be able to commute to designated local office. Trvl up to 20% req. Salary $110,000-$110,000/yr. Apply by email at US_PwC_Career_Recruitment@pwc.com, referencing Job Code CA3624.

Tax Accountant, International Tax Services (Transfer Pricing) (Manager) (Multiple Positions), Ernst & Young U.S. LLP, Los Angeles, CA. Effectively apply economic/financial knowledge to deliver to our clients quality transfer pricing advice through the tax life cycle (planning, accounting, compliance and controversy). Requires domestic and/or international travel up to 25% in order to serve client needs. Employer will accept any suitable combination of education, training, or experience. $106,974.00 per year. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply online, go to: ey.com/en_us/careers and click on "Careers - Job Search", then "Search Jobs" (Job Number - 1416065).

Teacher of Russian Language & Literature: BA in Philology and/or Russian Language & Literature req'd, 40 hrs/wk. $73,000/year. Mail/email resume: Scholars Academic Foundation - 1001 S. Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank, CA 91502. schoafoundation@gmail.com

Technical Artist. Provide support throughout the character production process. Req. Bach in Animation, Digital Art & Animation, or rel field or foreign equiv. & 2 yrs exp in job or 2 yrs exp as Artist, Tech. Animator, or rel. occup. Any suitable combo of educ, training &/or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Irvine, CA. Wage range: $112,152/yr to $161,500/yr. Send resume ref#21322 to K. Finnsson, Blizzard Entertainment, Inc., PO Box 18979, Irvine, CA 92623

Technology Architecture Delivery Manager (Accenture LLP; Los Angeles, CA): Design, implement, and/or support world-class information technology architecture for Accenture or our clients, spanning simple IT projects to large-scale, enterprise-level change programs. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 80% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# R00147470). Pursuant to the California Transparency Bill, the offered wage for this role is $153,000.00 per year. Equal Opportunity Employer – Minorities/Women/Vets/Disabled.

Employment

Application Development Manager (Accenture LLP; Los Angeles, CA): Develop or update project plans for information technology projects, including project objectives, technologies, systems, information specifications, schedules, funding, and staffing. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 80% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# R00148677). Pursuant to the California Transparency Bill, the offered wage for this role is $126,700.00 per year. Equal Opportunity Employer – Minorities/Women/Vets/Disabled.

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MATERIALS SCIENCE CONSULTANT [Job ID 56406]: Research & study the structures, chemical properties & production processes of various natural and synthetic or composite materials. Salary range: $195,175.00 - $214,692 / per year

TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT [Job ID 60017]: Identify & develop technology solutions for clients. Salary range: $147,410 - $152,410 / per year

TO APPLY: Go to www.jobpostingtoday.com, search for job ID & submit resume.

Lead Data Scientist, People Analytics sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica office at least 80% of time (average 4 days/wk). Provide insights thru custom analytics solutions & visualizations. M.S. or for. eq. + 3 yrs exp; OR B.S. or for. eq. + 5 yrs exp req. Base salary: $145,000-$210,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #LDS-0323-SW. EOE.

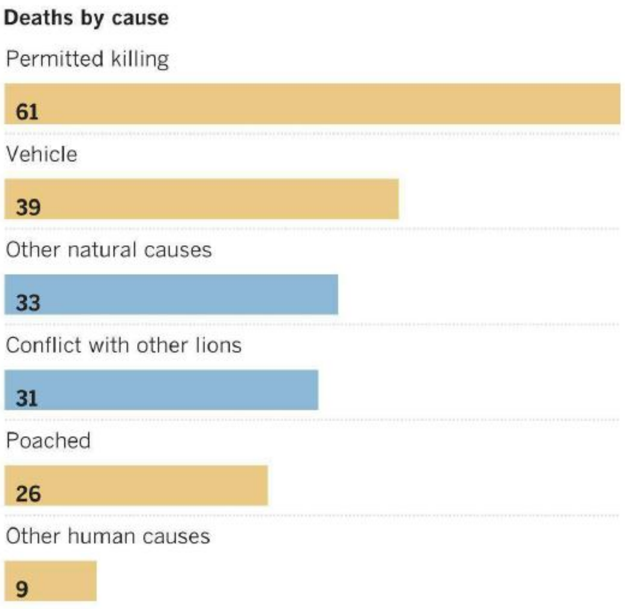
Marriage and Family Therapist (Anaheim, CA) Diagnose and treat marriage/family related mental & emotional disorders. Master's in marriage & family therapy. $37419/yr. Resume to: Korean Community Services, Inc. 451 W Lincoln Ave #100, Anaheim, CA 92805

WAREHOUSE WORKERS (SEVERAL POSITIONS): Moving, packing & sorting inventory. Sorting cargo for loading/unloading stock cargo in lading & other areas in the warehouse . Salary $15.50 per hour Send Resume to Job site : Delori Nutifood Products, Inc, 17043 Green Dr, City of Industry, Inc

Attitudes may affect pumas' survival

WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

RESEARCHERS found the most perilous areas for mountain lions are regions classified as having an "intermediate human presence," or rural areas with a lower density of development. Above, a puma in Brentwood.

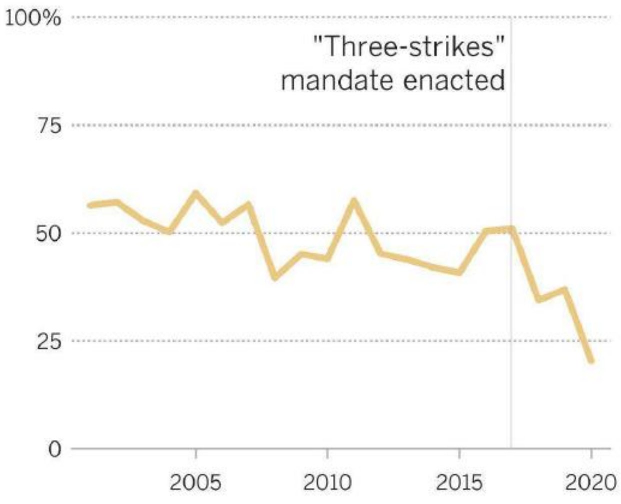


More pumas die from humans than from natural causes

Mountain lions were tracked between 1974 and 2020. The cause of death for 64 lions could not be determined.

Benson et al.

SEAN GREENE Los Angeles Times



Percentage of depredation permits leading to a cougar death declines

In 2017, a new policy required some L.A.-area depredation permit applicants to attempt two nonlethal measures before killing the animals. The rule was expanded in 2020 to all of Southern California and the Central Coast.

Data represent a minimum number of permits issued and mountain lions killed. Before 2013, multiple animals could be killed on a single permit.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

SEAN GREENE Los Angeles Times

[**Mountain lions,** from B1] highest mortality rates due to humans did not occur in traffic-laden metropolises or agricultural areas, where pumas and livestock owners endure a tense relationship. The most dangerous areas for mountain lions are regions the researchers classified as having an "intermediate human presence," or rural areas with a lower density of development. These include parts of the Peninsular and Transverse mountain ranges in Southern California, as well as on the Central Coast and in the Sierra foothills.

In some of California's most densely populated areas, such as Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area, cougars saw the highest survival rates over the study period. This safety net may stem from an unlikely source: public opinion.

A common cause of death of mountain lions is so-called depredation killings, in which individuals apply to the state for permission to kill a cat responsible for the death of livestock or other domestic animals. But a livestock killing doesn't always lead to a death sentence for the culprit. The authors wondered why.

"We had the idea that, OK, well, there's not annual ballots on whether mountain lions are good or bad, but in most years, there's something to do with the environment," said John Benson, a wildlife ecologist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the study leader.

To tackle the question — albeit indirectly — Benson and colleagues compiled election results for California propositions related to environmental issues such as watershed conservation, greenhouse gas emissions, plastic grocery bags and a bond measure for parks and other projects. They found that regional support for these initiatives were an even better predictor of mountain lion survival than the density of goat and sheep farms, where the carnivores are more likely to enter into conflict with humans.

"We definitely understand that voting records on environmental issues don't fully capture the complex views that people have about large carnivores, or their tolerance of them," Benson said.

Although the study authors discovered a correlation between declining mortality rates and election results, further research is necessary to prove a clear link, they said. Benson hopes ecologists and social scientists will be encouraged to investigate more directly how human attitudes and perceptions affect the survival of large carnivores.

The study, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, pulled together data and researchers from almost a dozen mountain lion research projects across the state, providing a big-picture look at mountain lion mortality and survival in California.

The research did not take into account reproduction rates or animals' movement between regions, an important next step to see where in the state their populations may be increasing, declining or stable, Benson said.

In a state as vast and diverse as California, threats to mountain lions abound. Though depredation killings, vehicle strikes, poaching and rodenticide poisoning account for the majority of deaths, mountain lions face lethal perils in the wild as well. Young cats in particular are vulnerable to starvation, illness and predation by other animals, including unrelated adult male cougars.

A recent UC Davis report tallied 535 deaths between 2015 and 2022. Although the annual rate is decreasing, it still amounts to one to two cats each week, scientists said. (That analysis relied on counts from a number of state agencies and UC researchers, which included both collared and uncollared animals. The new research examined mountain lions tracked by local wildlife agencies.)

Large freeways, especially in Southern California, have fragmented puma habitat, trapping populations to their local mountains and restricting gene flow critical to the species' survival.

But there are signs that policies geared toward protecting the animals — or people's attitudes toward them — are improving the situation. In the last two decades, the number of deaths by depredation has declined.

That could be for a number of reasons, such as improved attitudes toward the cats and recent protections for those living in the Santa Monica and Santa Ana mountains. In 2017, Southern California enacted a "three-strikes" policy that requires people seeking to eradicate a problematic puma to attempt two nonlethal deterrents before resorting to lethal measures.

In 2020, the measure was expanded to protect cougars from Southern California and up the coast to the San Francisco Bay Area. In this swath of the state, mountain lions are listed as a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act. While wildlife officials review the proposal to protect the species, the animals are considered protected under the law. A statewide ban on hunting mountain lions has been in effect since 1990.

In recent years, wildlife officials and advocates have increasingly focused on preventing human-cougar conflict.

The Cougar Conservancy, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit founded by wildlife biologist Korinna Domingo, offers education and training to help Californians avoid negative interactions with the carnivores on their properties. Among other services, the organization advises homeowners on how to build cougar-proof animal enclosures and, in the event of conflict, how to resolve it peacefully.

"We are getting better at supporting communities in living with wildlife, because we're not just defaulting to that lethal management decision," Domingo said. "Coexistence is the future."

In the Santa Monica Mountains, ingestion of anticoagulant rodenticides and vehicle strikes remain a large source of deaths. But in recent years, only one lion has been killed due to depredation — a reflection of people's attitudes, said Seth Riley, a National Park Service wildlife ecologist and a coauthor of the study.

"I think we are fortunate here in Southern California that people have relatively positive feelings about wildlife, and that extends all the way, fortunately, to mountain lions," Riley said. "P-22 is sort of an extreme example of that: how interested and connected people ended up feeling to that individual animal."

For a decade, P-22 lived among Angelenos in Griffith Park, a 6.5-square-mile habitat — tiny for an adult male mountain lion. In the Santa Monicas, adult males typically occupy 150 square miles.

"He showed what's possible for wildlife and that even a large carnivore can survive and coexist for a long time in an urban area," Riley said.

GORDON E. MOORE, 1929 - 2023

A pioneer of the integrated circuit whose law guided the digital age

[**Moore,** from B1]

Taking the risky path was something that came naturally to him, although he always maintained that his risks were clear choices that had to be taken.

"This is a fast-moving business," he once said in an interview. "Unless you're willing to take technical and financial risks, you're doomed. Things change so fast, if you don't, you die."

Moore described himself as an "accidental entrepreneur," although the success of Intel — and Moore's status as one of the richest men in the country because of his Intel holdings — belied his humble assessment.

Although Moore's cofounding of the microprocessor giant in 1968 assured his place in the history of modern technology, he may be best-known for what became known as Moore's Law.

In 1965, Moore made a simple observation that the number of transistors on an integrated circuit appeared to be doubling every year.

The integrated circuit had been invented only seven years earlier, and the most that anyone had been able to etch onto the thin chips of silicon that would power the growth of the electronics industry was about 50 transistors.

Looking at a graph of chip development, Moore extended the line forward 10 years and predicted that by 1975 there would be 65,000 transistors on a single silicon chip.

It seemed an outlandishly large number at the time, but Moore was right on target.

Moore amended his prediction several times during his life, eventually settling on the prediction that the number of transistors would double every 18 to 24 months instead of every year.

Although the exact equation of Moore's Law was changed, its spirit of rapid technological advancement remained constant. It became the credo of the electronic world and a slogan of the digerati eagerly awaiting the next great thing.

"Integrated circuits will lead to such wonders as home computers — or at least terminals connected to a central computer, automatic controls for automobiles, and personal portable communications equipment," Moore wrote in 1965.

The descendants of the first crude chips that Moore designed went on to power personal computers, automobiles, mobile phones and even watches.

"It's kind of funny that Moore's Law is what I'm best-known for," he said in a 1997 interview with Business Week. "It was just a relatively simple observation."

The accuracy of Moore's Law became a cornerstone of business planning in the electronics industry.

Gordon Earle Moore hardly fit the image of a prophet of the digital age. He was down-home and practical, an unpretentious, slightly balding scientist who maintained a bit of his small-town roots in the midst of the heady pace of Silicon Valley.

Moore was born in San Francisco on Jan. 3, 1929, to Walter and Florence Moore. The family eventually settled in Pescadero, about 30 miles south, where his father was the chief deputy sheriff for the area.

Moore seemed headed for an academic career after graduating from UC Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1950 and a doctorate in chemistry and physics from Caltech in 1954.

After a brief stint at the Applied Physics Lab at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, he went to work in 1956 for Shockley, who had set up his own company, Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory, to further develop the transistor.

Shockley was a heavy-handed, temperamental and capricious manager. After working for just a year, Moore and most of Shockley's top scientists rebelled.

The "traitorous eight," as Shockley called them, broke away and started Fairchild Semiconductor in 1957.

The creation of Fairchild was one of the crucial turning points in electronics history, allowing Moore and others to pursue research that helped their partner, Robert Noyce, to devise a commercially viable process to miniaturize whole circuits on a silicon chip — the integrated circuit.

Moore and Noyce left Fairchild in 1966 and two years later formed their own company to exploit the development of the integrated circuit. They named their company Integrated Electronics but later shortened it to Intel.

With the help of Arthur Rock, the first of Silicon Valley's legions of venture capitalists, Noyce and Moore easily raised $2.3 million and began work.

Noyce served as chief executive officer of the new company with Rock as chairman and Moore as executive vice president.

Intel began by making memory chips and rocketed to profitability by adopting a corporate strategy of innovating at a breakneck pace so that it could charge a premium for its products.

Moore took over as chief executive of Intel in 1975, just a few years before his company began being battered by the flood of cheap memory chips from Japanese manufacturers that turned Intel's main product into a commodity.

Intel began losing money and laying off workers. By the mid-1980s, Intel had begun to lag in the very industry it had created.

By 1985, even Moore began to sound grim. The downturn, Moore told shareholders at the time, was "possibly the greatest in the history of the semiconductor industry."

"We are flushing out the excesses of a badly overheated electronics industry," he said. "What happened? Dame Fortune frowned. Intel must be well-positioned and ready when Dame Fortune smiles again."

In 1984 and 1985, Intel still spent more than $1 billion on chip-manufacturing equipment and facilities. It was all part of Moore's belief that staying on the cutting edge was the key to success and the company would eventually come roaring back.

Moore and the hard-charging president of the company, Andrew S. Grove, began to refocus Intel away from cheap memory chips to high-margin microprocessors — the brains of the computer.

In 1987, Moore relinquished the chief executive position to Grove, although he remained active in guiding the company as chairman.

Moore also busied himself as a member of the Caltech board of trustees and as a patriarch of the electronics industry.

In 1950, Moore married Betty Irene Whitaker, who survives him. Moore is also survived by sons Kenneth and Steven and four grandchildren.

Dunn is a former Times staff writer.

RICOU BROWNING, 1930 - 2023

Actor, stuntman played the Black Lagoon's 'creature'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ricou Browning, a skilled swimmer best known for his underwater role as Gill Man in the quintessential 3-D black-and-white 1950s monster movie "Creature from the Black Lagoon," has died, his family told various media outlets. He was 93.

Browning died Feb. 27 at his home in Southwest Ranches, Fla.

In addition to acting roles, Browning collaborated as a writer on the 1963 movie "Flipper" and the popular TV series of the same name that followed.

He told the Ocala (Fla.) Star Banner newspaper in 2013 that he came up with the idea after a trip to South America to capture freshwater dolphins in the Amazon.

"One day, when I came home, the kids were watching 'Lassie' on TV, and it just dawned on me, 'Why not do a film about a boy and a dolphin?' " he told the newspaper.

Browning directed the 1973 comedy "Salty," about a sea lion, and the 1978 drama "Mr. No Legs," about a mob enforcer who is a double amputee. He also did stunt work in various films, including serving as Jerry Lewis' underwater double in the 1959 comedy "Don't Give Up the Ship," according to the New York Times.

But nothing would mark Browning's Hollywood career like swimming underwater in an elaborately grotesque suit as the Gill Man, a character that would hold its own in horror-movie lore alongside monsters such as King Kong and Godzilla. Browning did the swimming scenes in two sequels, "Revenge of the Creature" (1955) and "The Creature Walks Among Us" (1956). Other actors played the Gill Man when it was on land.

He was discovered when the film's director visited Silver Springs, where Newt Perry, who performed as a stand-in for "Tarzan" actor Johnny Weissmuller, was promoting one of Florida's first tourist attractions, where Browning got a job as a teen swimming in water shows.

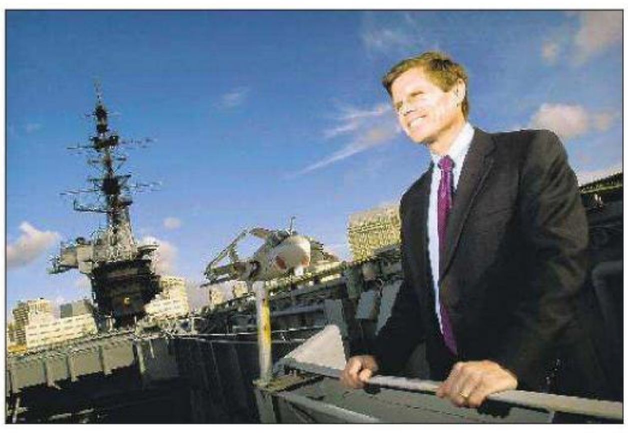
Perry asked Browning to take the Hollywood visitors to Wakulla Springs, one of the largest and deepest freshwater springs in the world. They later recruited Browning to appear in the movie, which was partly filmed at the springs.

Ricou Ren Browning was born on Feb. 16, 1930, in Fort Pierce, Fla. He swam on the U.S. Air Force swim team.

Survivors include four children, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. His wife, Fran, died in March 2020. His son Ricou Jr. is a marine coordinator, actor and stuntman.

Midway Museum's CEO to retire

By John Wilkens



Dan Trevan San Diego Union-Tribune

MAC McLAUGHLIN stands on the flight deck of the USS Midway aircraft carrier, docked in San Diego.

SAN DIEGO — The ship wasn't even here yet when John "Mac" McLaughlin became the founding president and chief executive of the USS Midway Museum in December 2003.

It was a dream, really, the plans so tenuous that organizers had to have $500,000 set aside to cover the cost of towing the mothballed, nearly 60-year-old aircraft carrier away from San Diego if the museum flopped.

It didn't flop. It flourished into one of the city's most popular tourist attractions — more than 18 million visitors and counting — and an icon on the downtown waterfront. Now, almost 20 years later, McLaughlin has decided it's time to walk away. He retires Wednesday.

"Sometimes you just know," the almost 72-year-old former Navy rear admiral said. "It's time to make way for someone with more energy than this old guy who can see the Midway into its next chapters."

McLaughlin said he and his wife of 46 years, Nora, are ready to "slow the pace down a bit" and are moving to a small town in the Blue Ridge Mountains in South Carolina.

He'll leave behind the most successful floating naval museum in the world, an attraction on par with the San Diego Zoo, SeaWorld and Balboa Park in the rankings of various visitor guides. According to Tripadvisor, it is the fourth most popular museum of any kind in the U.S.

"Mac came to San Diego on a wing and prayer that this carrier thing might be a success, and somehow he mustered the courage to do it," said John Hawkins, a member of the museum's organizing committee. It spent 12 years navigating federal, state and local regulations while the decommissioned vessel sat in a Navy shipyard in Bremerton, Wash.

McLaughlin had just retired from the Navy and moved to San Diego with his wife, a Chula Vista native, when he was approached about running the Midway.

A former helicopter pilot who had landed a time or two on the 1,000-foot-long carrier, he had a fondness for the ship, and for the idea. San Diego is the birthplace of naval aviation. The first U.S. aircraft carriers were home-ported here. But the prospects were daunting.

"We had no money, a lot of debt, and no revenue," he recalled in an interview Friday. "No electricity, no water, and no exhibits. We didn't have anything."

Except volunteers. And that made all the difference, he said. Volunteers found four airplanes to put on display. Volunteers helped scrape away years of rust and mounds of bird droppings. They painted and polished. And volunteers came aboard as docents, to tell the kind of personal stories that turned the museum into a piece of living history.

Somehow it all came together in six months, and the Midway opened to the public on June 7, 2004. "We've got to earn our place on the waterfront," McLaughlin told the San Diego Union-Tribune that day. "You earn it by providing value and service to the community."

Within the first hour, 500 people had bought tickets. That was a sign of things to come. Museum organizers hoped to draw 440,000 people the first year. They got almost double that, and never dropped below 800,000 until COVID hit. In 2012, annual attendance hit 1 million for the first time.

That success has allowed the museum to add a variety of attractions, including almost 30 restored planes and 60 exhibits, and to be open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The ship also hosts thousands of schoolkids annually for educational programs and sleepovers. It's been the site of hundreds of private events yearly — fundraising galas, military ceremonies, memorial services — and scores of public gatherings, including an annual showing of the movie "Top Gun." A college basketball game between San Diego State and Syracuse was played on the flight deck. "American Idol" has filmed episodes there.

"Mac carried out a challenging task in transitioning us from a raw ship into a functioning public attraction, and then building it up into a cherished community asset," said Karl Zingheim, the Midway's longtime historian.

McLaughlin said that's what he is proudest of, "that most people in San Diego now feel the USS Midway is part of the city landscape."

He gave the credit to others. "So many people were behind us, had their oars in the water," he said. "The list of people who made this all happen is very long."

Museum officials have picked his successor: Terry Kraft, a retired Navy rear admiral whose 30-plus years in the service included stints commanding an aviation squadron, ship and aircraft-carrier strike groups, and overseas shore facilities. He also worked in management for defense contractor General Atomics for almost a decade.

As a flight officer, Kraft received the Distinguished Flying Cross during Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s for combat missions flown off an aircraft carrier — the Midway.

Wilkens writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

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Los Angeles Times

Suzanne Rheinstein

April 1, 1945 - March 20, 2023

Interior designer Suzanne Stamps Rheinstein died on March 20, 2023, after a long battle with cancer. Her timing, as always, was impeccable: her third volume of interiors, "A Welcoming Elegance," was published on March 14 by Rizzoli. And what a fitting title, for Suzanne was nothing if not welcoming. A true booster of her adopted city Los Angeles, Suzanne devoted her life to welcoming fellow Angelenos into her passion for interiors, arts, and culture through her work as a designer, entrepreneur, preservationist, and philanthropist.

Born in New Orleans on April 1,1945, Suzanne attended the Newman School, which she always credited with shaping both her creativity and intellect. She matriculated to Tulane University, where she was the managing editor of the newspaper and earned a bachelor's degree in English Literature. After stints working as a researcher for author Hodding Carter and a self-described "Girl Friday" for Eric Sevareid at CBS News, Suzanne continued her career in Washington, D.C., as a freelance non-fiction television producer for a wide range of subjects from serious documentaries to celebrity cooking shows.

It was while working as a producer that she met the love of her life, Frederic Rheinstein. Fred, an accomplished news producer and post-production pioneer, convinced her to move to Los Angeles and eventually marry him. Their daughter Kate was born in 1980.

In 1988, Suzanne opened her iconic shop, Hollyhock, in Larchmont village. Hollyhock had three homes over the course of thirty years in business, ultimately ending up in the La Cienega Design Quarter (LCDQ). More than a shop, Hollyhock served both as a destination for the local design community and as an incubator for emerging artists and craftsmen. The shop enabled Suzanne to begin designing interiors, the profession for which she is most known. Her signature style–Southern elegance married to Southern California–clearly struck a note.

Suzanne's work was featured in all the nation's leading lifestyle magazines, and she was named to Architectural Digest's AD100 and Elle Decor's A-List. Suzanne is the recipient of the New York School of Interior Design's "Albert Hadley Award for Lifetime Achievement," the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art's "Arthur Ross Award for Interior Design," the Southern California Institute of Classical Architecture & Art's "Legacy Award," the LCDQ "Living Legends Award," and the LACMA Design "Leadership Award." She will be honored with the Kip's Bay Boys & Girls Club "Lifetime Achievement Award" on April 3, 2023. Despite these numerous industry accolades, one of her proudest moments was receiving the Newman School distinguished Alumna award in 2020.

Suzanne's love of historic architecture and preservation led to her involvement in the Los Angeles Conservancy, the largest membership-based local historic preservation organization in the nation. An active member since the 1980's, Suzanne served two terms as a board member. A lifelong avid gardener and enthusiast of historical gardens, Suzanne joined the Garden Conservancy, a national organization devoted to preserving and sharing America's gardens and diverse gardening traditions for the public, and served on its board since 2004. In 2018, Suzanne conceived and started The Suzanne and Frederic Rheinstein Fund for Garden Documentation to document gardens through the Garden Conservancy, both to preserve gardens through imagery and to create access to these gardens to a wider audience.

Suzanne will be remembered for her style and graciousness, her boundless positivity, innumerable acts of kindness, her generosity of spirit, her steadfast friendships, and of course, the fabulous parties she threw.

Suzanne is survived by her daughter Kate Brodsky and son-in-law Alexander Brodsky, granddaughters Beatriz, Frederica, and Delphine, her brother, Odom Stamps and her stepchildren Linda Rheinstein and David Rheinstein. She was predeceased by her husband Frederic Rheinstein in 2013.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Garden Conservancy.

Share a memory

To sign a guest book please go to latimes.com/guestbooks Los Angeles Times

BELL, Pamela J.

March 26, 1943 - September 22, 2022

Pamela Bell passed away after a brief illness on September 22, 2022. Today, March 26, 2023, would have been her 80th birthday. Born Pamela J. Stephens in Culver City on March 26, 1943, she was a true Southern California beauty: fearless, kind but also blunt, and suffering no fools. She was hard-working, fun-loving, and adventurous. Many friends describe her as a "firecracker." Born to a bookbinder mother and a math professor father, she grew up in Mar Vista and attended Venice High School.

She held three careers in her life, first, following her love of children, she ran a daycare center. In the nineteen-eighties and early nineties, she worked as an electronics assembler in the aerospace industry. Eventually, she turned her lifelong passion for animals into a career as a mobile dog groomer serving the Westside of Los Angeles, a job she absolutely loved and never fully retired from. As the tagline for her business, Bells and Bows Mobile Grooming went: I love the pets and the pets love me.

She was also a keen Pro-Am dancer, winning numerous medals in regional and national dance contests, a passion that allowed her to travel and socialize. She also loved getting together with friends over a meal or a game of canasta.

She is survived by two sons, Carl F. Peel (Tracy) of Los Angeles, CA and Robert A. Peel (Desiree) of Elgin, OK., as well as grandchildren Madison Peel, Cody Peel, Reagan Peel and Danica Peel, all of Elgin, OK. She is predeceased by husbands Alan J. Valdez, Carl A. Peel and Donald C. Bell. Her fourth marriage to Frederick Struiksma dissolved in 2010, but they remained close friends.

A celebration of life with take place sometime in the summer. She would likely remind friends that they can always make a donation in her name to their local animal shelter.

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Los Angeles Times

CONTI, Christina Simpson

April 28, 1940 - March 11, 2023

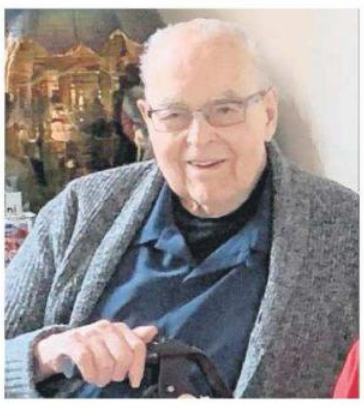
Christina Simpson Conti, beloved mother, sister and friend, passed away on March 11, 2023 after a brief illness. She was 82.

Chris was born in Los Angeles to Joseph Simpson and Marybeth Fyle Simpson on April 28, 1940. After she graduated from Marlborough in 1957 she was a Las Madrinas debutante, and she then attended Michigan State University before returning to Los Angeles. Chris graduated Summa Cum Laude from Mount St. Mary's College School of Nursing in 1976, received her RN that same year, and later received her B.S. from Chapman University.

Chris fulfilled many professional and volunteer passions. In the late 1960's she was President of the Anne Banning Auxiliary of the Assistance League of Los Angeles. She enjoyed many golf related roles including Chairwoman of the Los Angeles Country Club Women's Auxiliary where she was winner of the President's Cup; many roles with the Southern California Women's Golf Association; as a medical study team member through the westside VA Hospital in collaboration with Kaiser Sunset; working with the Nature of Wildworks in Malibu; and most recently as a certified therapy dog team participant with her beloved Sheltie, Raven, at the westside VA Hospital, St. John's Hospital, and UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center.

Chris had many stories of riding her horses through the hills of Mandeville and Kenter Canyons in the 1950s. She showed her horses and received awards and ribbons in the Western Pleasure and Trail Horse classes in the Santa Ynez Valley. While growing up she split her time living in Beverly Hills, Mandeville Canyon, and at Folded Hills Ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley where she said her soul was. Toward the end of her life, she enjoyed watching polo matches at Folded Hills Ranch and in Carpinteria.

She was married to Peter Koenig in 1961 and to Richard Lee Triplett II in 1967. In 1976 Chris married Dr. Alfred Conti who passed away in 2007. His children survive her: Ron Conti (Linda) of Florida, Linda Conti of Newport Beach, and Kacey Conti Davis (Doug) of Missouri. In 2011, she met Tom Maudlin, her partner of 12 years. They enjoyed many social activities, including golf at the Los Angeles Country Club and time in the Santa Ynez Valley. Chris is survived by her daughter Victoria "Tori" Simpson of Arizona, her son Richard Lee "Trey" Triplett III (Kathy) of Nevada, and granddaughters Morgan Arroyo of Los Angeles and Hope Triplett of Nevada. Chris is also survived by half-brother Tom Simpson (Lili) of La Canada, half-sisters Margot Weber of New Mexico, Marybeth Weber Chapman (Don) of Laguna Beach, and Caroline Weber Pyne (Kevin) of New Zealand. Her stepbrother Roland Weber (Debbie) of Palos Verdes also passed on the same day. Chris leaves many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and both local and international friends and classmates from her extensive global travels.



Howard D Lambertson

October 9, 1927 - February 22, 2023

Howard D. Lambertson died peacefully of natural causes in Northridge, CA. He was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Barbara, who passed in November 2020, and he is survived by his four children, Dean, Chuck, Brian, and Linda, their four spouses, Ursula, Sharon, Gayle, and Bill Auer and, among them, nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. He was born in Glendale, CA to R.C. and Henrietta Lambertson of Freehold, New Jersey among three brothers: Everett, Gilbert, and Milton. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America, both in his youth and later as a Scout leader. He achieved scouting's highest rank of Eagle, and later, membership in the Silver Rats Chapter of the Scouts National Order of the Arrow honor society. After graduating from Hoover High School in 1945, he served two years in the U.S. Army. He met the love of his life, Barbara, on his 21st birthday on a blind date. They married on August 12, 1950, and first settled in Northridge before moving to their family home of 60 years on Mayflower Drive in Granada Hills, CA. He graduated from USC in 1952 with a BA in Business before going to work at Red-E-Crete, Inc. in Sun Valley, CA in various management and production roles from 1952 to 1990. He later worked with E-Z Mix, Inc. in regional sales covering the South Bay Area of Los Angeles, finally retiring in 2008 at the age of 81 years young. He was an active patron for many years of the Glendale Center Theater Group. His greatest joy in life was his family, never missing an opportunity to be together. He enjoyed countless friends of all ages and backgrounds. Howard is remembered as a kind man who was loyal and considerate to all he met. He was loved by his family, revered by his many friends, respected by his colleagues, and he will be greatly missed. No longer in our presence, but always in our hearts.

Howard was a member of the Neptune Society and a May 6, 2023 memorial service is being planned. In-lieu of flowers, the family requests that you please send a memory gift in the name of Howard Lambertson to the Yosemite Conservancy (Giving at https//yosemite.org) or by mail to 101 Montgomery Street, Suite 2450, San Francisco, CA 94104.

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Los Angeles Times

FOX, S. Dorothy Metzger

July 15, 1930 - February 23, 2023

Sally Dorothy (so named because with her mother's Yiddish accent, it sounded like Solidarity) grew up during the depression in Seagate, Brooklyn, New York, near Coney Island. Her family was poor and early on, were squatters. Once they were more well situated, she would accompany her mother to help displaced squatters move their furniture back in when they were kicked out.

She began school at the age of six, only speaking Yiddish, and graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School.

She met her first husband, Walter Fox, on the beach in Coney Island when she was 17 and married him 3 years later. They moved to Switzerland, where Walter would attend his first two years of medical school.

Her oldest daughter, Laura, was born in Switzerland.

The young family moved to Boston where Walter finished medical school and then back to Brooklyn for his internship. Dorothy returned to college with Laura in tow and graduated from Brooklyn College.

In 1956, they moved to Los Angeles, where her husband did his residency. During his residency, she had her two other daughters, Andrea and Erica.

She went back to get her master's in history at Cal State, Los Angeles. This is where she met Timothy Harding, her professor, who would become her second husband. Together, they had many great adventures.

She briefly taught history at East Los Angeles College and then went on to law school, with Erica in tow. She graduated from Loyola Law School and passed the bar on her first try in 1972.

Soon after graduating, she sued the City of Los Angeles for violating the Separation of Church and State clause of the Constitution by lighting the windows of City Hall in the shape of a cross at Easter and Christmas. In a landmark decision, Fox vs. City Hall, she prevailed (she received hate mail and death threats) after the city appealed to the California State Supreme Court in 1978.

She worked for the NLRB and then opened her family law practice. She bought her suits in the boys' department at Bullocks.

She represented her daughter Laura in her divorce in 1976.

She did her own divorce from Walter and, then, he performed her hysterectomy. Professional courtesy all around.

In the 1980's and 90's, she could be seen at Beverly Hills City Council meetings speaking in opposition to the menorah placed in the public park along Santa Monica Blvd, again claiming it violated separation of church and state and citing her Fox vs. City Hall decision.

She began buying property in Santa Barbara, and she and Tim moved up there permanently in 1998.

She, and the Mesa Association, blocked the building of a 4-lane street and created the current Shoreline Park and the bike lanes, the beautiful Santa Barbara amenity that it is today.

Dorothy's world vision can be best explained by this story: In the late 1960's, she bought a mink coat. She was afraid to show it to her mother, who had been a union organizer and worked as a coat finisher in the garment district in New York. She modeled the coat for her mother, who was delighted. Dorothy said, "You're not angry?" Her mother looked at the coat and said, "Well, Dorothy, you know, nothing's too good for the working class."

She never raised the rent on her tenants, as long as they were good tenants.

She was the best friend and the most formidable enemy. She loved her daughters and thought they were the most marvelous people.

Her ashes were scattered off the coast of Santa Barbara that she so loved.

She is survived by her husband, Timothy Harding, and her children: Laura Eve Fox, MD, (John Hofbauer, MD), Andrea Rose Fox, MD (Ken Thompson, MD), Erica Jean Fox (John Newby) and her grandchildren: Claire Fox Hofbauer, Alexander Fox Hofbauer, Harry Stewart Thompson, Alice Fox Thompson, MD, Lewis Laufer Thompson, Franklin Fox Newby and Mae Constance Fox Newby.

Dorothy was petite but powerful. She will be missed for her fierceness in her beliefs, wit, laughter, beautiful singing voice and love, all traits she passed on to her three daughters. We all miss her. We always will.

Sally Dorothy forever!

Donations, in her honor, may be made to HIAS, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Planned Parenthood and Jewish Voice for Peace.

FRIEDMAN, Richard

December 18, 1954 - February 12, 2023

Richard Friedman passed peacefully at his home in Los Angeles. Born to Herbert & Jeri Friedman, survived by beloved sister Denise Jurick, niece Sarah Jurick & husband Tobin Lefler & great nephew Owen James Lefler. Service: Hillside Memorial Park April 2 - 2 PM Donation: Stjude.org or ASPCA

HUG, Emil

December 8, 1931 - March 17, 2023

In the early afternoon of March 17, 2023, Emil Hug of West Los Angeles, renowned owner and pastry chef of Emil's Swiss Pastry, passed peacefully away at the age of 91.

He is survived by his loving wife, Violeta of 64 years, brother Josef, his daughters Gina, Tita, Lissa and Susie, their husbands, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The memorial service will be held at St. Timothy's Catholic Church Wednesday, March 29 at Noon. Reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that you send donations to St. Jude's Children Hospital.

HUNT, Brian Vincent

Brian Vincent Hunt, our beloved son, was born on August 19, 1969. He passed away on February 16, 2020. Brian was a great son and a kind person. As his mother, Brian was my everything, and he is missed every day until I see him again.

KNOX, Brenda Thomson

March 2, 1944 - March 17,

Brenda Thomson Knox passed away at her home in Indio, California after a brave fight with cancer. She was born in Savannah, Georgia. Brenda was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas F. Thomson II and Ramelle Smith Davis, stepfather, Braith Davis and her brother and sister-in-law, Thomas Freeman Thomson III and Carolyn Ihly Thomson. She leaves behind her loving and devoted husband of 25 years, Pat Knox, and her beloved American Eskimo, Hank.

During high school she moved to Baltimore with her mother and stepfather. She attended Sara Lawrence College in New York but left after one year for Los Angeles to pursue her dreams of a dancing and acting career. She began her career primarily as a dancer but later moved on to commercial voiceovers, small movie parts and worked in television where she was a dancer/assistant choreographer for the Red Skelton Show and The Tim Conway Comedy Hour. Brenda then took the opportunity to move to New York where she performed "Company" on Broadway (her dream). She later returned to LA and met Ken Berry. They spent years together doing shows across the country such as "I Do, I Do".

In 1995, she met her soulmate, Pat Knox, on St. Patrick's Day at Santa Anita Racetrack. They married in 1998 and spent her remaining years traveling the world, fly fishing, and golfing. In her spare time, she sold residential real estate. In 2014, Brenda and Pat moved to Heritage Palms golfing community in Indio, California.

Brenda was a happy and free-spirited woman who was full of life and embraced all that it offered. She left friends all over the country over the course of her life, especially her Savannah Family. She will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

KOSLOWSKI, Beatrice

May 27, 1929 - March 21, 2023

Beloved wife of Edward (d. 2005), mother of Ron, grandma of Chloe & Madison, aunt, great aunt, sister and cousin. She was loved and respected by all who knew her.

LOMIS, Erik

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

MANO, LOUISE SETSUKO

April 20, 1940 - February 16, 2023

Louise Setsuko Mano, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and sister, passed away unexpectedly on February 16, 2023 at Torrance Memorial Medical Center after a brief illness.

She was born in Los Angeles on April 20, 1940 to Hiroshi and Yoshiko Sakamoto, the third of four siblings. Her family was sent to Manzanar Relocation Center in California in 1942 and returned to Los Angeles after the war in 1945. She was active with the youth group at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. She graduated from Los Angeles High School then received an AA degree in Dental Assisting at Los Angeles City College, where she met and married Bob Mano her life partner of nearly 65 years. They were blessed with daughters Christine and Stephanie born in 1961 and 1963. Louise and Bob were longtime residents of Gardena and have resided in Torrance the last fifteen years.

She is survived by her loving husband Bob, daughters Christine (Lyle Ota) Maekawa and Stephanie (Scott) Mibu, grandchildren Brittni (Michael Mulik) Maekawa, Chad (Melissa) Maekawa, Dylan Mibu, Ethan Mibu, great-grandchildren Ryson Maekawa, and Skylah Maekawa, sisters Mildred (Mako) Mizukami and Irene Cohen, plus cousins, nephews and nieces. Predeceased by her parents and brother, Robert Sakamoto.

Private services were held on March 25, 2023 at The Historic Church at Green Hills Cemetery in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.

NOVOSELSKI, Denise Gartland

September 12, 1951 - March 15, 2023

It is with great sadness that we share the news of Denise Gartland Novoselski's passing on March 15, 2023 in Malibu, CA. Denise was born in Pasadena and grew up in Pacific Palisades, CA.

She was the daughter of James J Gartland (d.1980) and Betty F. Gartland (d. 2020).

She is survived by her siblings Patricia Gartland, James J. Gartland Jr and Barbara Gartland. Also, her beloved 6 nieces and nephews and 5 grandnieces and nephews.

Denise was married to Timothy Novoselski (d. 2013) for 35 years. They met as journalism majors at USC and worked side-by-side as the first ever co-editors of the Daily Trojan.

Denise and Tim would continue to work together for many, many years. This included a move to Idaho in their early marriage, where they both worked at the local newspaper. This began their lifelong love affair with McCall, Idaho and the many friends they made there. Eventually, they returned home to California and became co-publishers for Miramar Publishing Company, Denise's family's business.

Denise was always creating–writing, painting and designing. Her love for jewelry design began with a collection of beads and metals collected in her many travels around the world and evolved into a successful business–a reflection of her inner spirit. "Denise James" jewelry was carried in many fine boutiques and acquired quite a following.

She loved the ocean, lakes, mountains, woods and streams. She and Tim had a sprawling ranch in Idaho and a lovely home perched high above the Pacific Ocean in Malibu.

Important in her life were her and Tim's beloved huskies-she was devoted to them and they to her. She was a wonderful sister, an amazing friend and a generous philanthropist to many causes. She will be missed by the many who knew her and whose lives she touched. A memorial celebration of her life will be held at a later date. Denise asks that a pebble or rock be tossed into a body of water in her honor.

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online to:

latimes.com/placeobituary

or call
1-800-234-4444

Los Angeles Times

PEARSON, Jack O

August 21, 1941 - February 28, 2023

Jack Pearson, beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother, passed away on February 28, 2023 in Santa Monica, CA. Born in Artesia, New Mexico on August 21, 1941 to Oscar Pearson and Ruth Bjorkholm Pearson, Jack and his twin brother Edward "Ted" Pearson, grew up in Artesia and graduated from Artesia High School in 1959. Jack moved to the Midwest and earned his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University in 1964, where he was in the marching band. Jack moved to California to begin his aerospace engineering career at Hughes Aircraft Company, where he was awarded a fellowship and earned his PhD in engineering from UCLA in 1971. Jack also completed UCLA's Graduate School of Management Executive Program in 1986.

Jack met his wife Rebecca Cooper at the First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica playing Volleyball. They were married in 1970 and have two daughters, Ruthie Pearson-Smith and Jenny Mattesich. Jack and Becky celebrated 53 years of marriage. Jack was an expert airborne radar technologist and spent his 38-year career at Hughes Aircraft Company and later Raytheon. He applied system engineering skills to develop very advanced performance radars for military aircraft needs and problems. Jack was a leader in the development of stealth radar for stealth aircraft and managed the largest and most profitable Hughes Aircraft radar product line (F/A-18). Jack worked on top secret programs that took him to locations with test fields, to the Pentagon, Washington D.C., to meet all branches of the military, and traveled to many foreign countries for the manufacture and sale of fighter airplanes and for air shows. Jack worked on Pave Mover, radar on Tacit Blue, the B-2 radar programs, as the radar system engineering manager and later radar system program manager for F/A-18. Jack retired from Raytheon in 2003 after seven years as the Vice President and General Manager of the Air Combat and Strike Systems business unit in El Segundo, having spent his career working on radar and technology for programs such as F-4, F-15, F/A-18, AV-8B and B-2.

Jack continued his work after retirement as an independent consultant, working to develop reliable technology to assure unpiloted air vehicles avoid collisions with other aircraft.

Jack was a respected leader at Hughes/Raytheon and will be remembered as a smart, respected man, mentor to many, with a calm and rational demeanor, and amazing manager and friend.

Jack was a member of professional organizations IEEE (Institute of Electric and Electronics Engineers) and Founders of Stealth, and in addition was active in his church community as part of the FUMC Trustees and Alders Gate Board of Trustees. Jack spent much time researching his family's genealogy and documenting in books for his family. He enjoyed reading, continuous education, history, photography and travel, always creating photo albums to remember his journeys and special memories. He supported the arts and frequented museums and Broadway shows, was a collector of coins and special issue stamps, loved gardening his roses, watching old movies, loved the southwest, was known for always drinking Pepsi or Coca-cola, and most of all, loved spending time with his family.

All who knew Jack appreciated his kind and caring disposition, his quiet leadership, his love for learning, and his sense of humor.

Jack is survived by his wife Becky, their daughters Ruthie (& RJ Smith) and Jenny (& Jeff Mattesich), and four loving grandchildren: Bailey and Cooper Smith, and Henry and Russell Mattesich, brother Ted (Georgia) Pearson and sister-in-law Martha Merritt. Jack was dearly loved by his family and will be greatly missed by all who cared for him.

Memorial Services will be held May 12, 2023 11:00am at the First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica at 1008 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403. Reception following.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to:

John Wayne Cancer Foundation (www.donate.johnwayne.org)

The FUMC Sharingers Scholarship Fund (1008 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403)

ROSENBERG, Gene

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Services were held
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

Honor a life
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please go to
latimes.com/placeobituary
Los Angeles Times

ROSENBLUTH, Hilde

May 17, 1927 - February 13, 2023

Hilde Shubin Rosenbluth passed away on February 13, 2023, surrounded by family in her home in Pasadena. In her 95 years, Hilde was many things to many people: loving wife, mother and grandmother, compassionate nurse, dedicated community volunteer and caring friend. But across all stations of life, she lived a life committed to service to others above self.

Born in Bielefeld, Germany, in 1927, Hilde was the eldest of three siblings. Hilde excelled in school from a young age, but her studies were interrupted by World War II. Following the war, seeking meaning and a new life, Hilde moved to London to study nursing. After obtaining her nursing degree at King's College in London, Hilde practiced nursing in London for several years and spoke fondly of her time there and the friends she made during this period.

Returning to Germany in her late 20s, Hilde served as a nurse at an American military hospital. There, she met Herbert Shubin, a doctor on base. Hilde and Herb married, and she moved with him to his home in Los Angeles. While Herb pursued a demanding career as a cardiologist and pioneering researcher in critical care medicine, Hilde chose to care for their three children and volunteered in the community, including serving as a docent at the LA County Museum of Art. Hilde also completed her education, which had been interrupted by the war, attending UCLA and graduating Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in German. Hilde ultimately resumed nursing and worked at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute (NPI).

Herb died tragically young, leaving Hilde a widow in her late 40s and a parent to three teenagers. Turning her grief to a higher purpose, Hilde focused on nursing and became licensed as a nurse practitioner. Hilde then worked as a nurse practitioner in the women's health clinic at UCLA.

In 1981, Hilde married Irving Rosenbluth, an innovative and successful businessman, himself a widower. Hilde and Irv remained happily married for 42 years. They enjoyed extensive travel, played tennis, and were frequent patrons of the opera and theater. Their home was the central gathering place for their extended circle of family and friends, and Hilde was the consummate host and a matriarch to her and Irv's shared family. Hilde continued volunteering in the community, including serving for over two decades as a docent at the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens, imparting her passions for art history and fine art, gardening and education.

Hilde is predeceased by her sister Dorothea Brennecke, brother Gerhard Sackewitz, son Richard Shubin, and son-in-law Tom Wolff. Hilde is survived by her husband Irving Rosenbluth, her daughters Carol Shubin and Dorothy Shubin (Gregory Pieschala), daughter-in-law Judy Shubin, stepson Richard Rosenbluth (Susan Schenk), and seven grandchildren. She will be dearly missed by her family, friends, and all those whose lives she touched.

TAYLOR, Terrence Neal

December 3, 1927 - March 7, 2023

A devoted husband and beloved father, Terrence Taylor was born in Los Angeles, Calif., to Philip and Louise Taylor. He grew up in Toluca Terrace, attending North Hollywood High School until 1945, after which he served in the Navy at the end of World War II. He attended college at University of Southern California, where he graduated in 1951. After receiving his medical degree from USC in 1955, and completing his residency at the Los Angeles VA Hospital, he began a long and distinguished career in psychiatry, receiving his PhD in Psychoanalysis from the Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute in 1971. Terrence maintained a private practice of psychotherapy in Sherman Oaks from 1959 to 1991, at the same time teaching as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at USC School of Medicine and Instructor at the Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute, where he also served in various administrative positions. He was also a co-founder and member of the board of directors at Woodview Hospital. In the final years of his long career, he served as staff psychiatrist at the Orange County Mental Health Clinic in Mission Viejo.

Terrence passed away peacefully at his home in Laguna Beach on March 7, and was buried at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills beside Joan, his wife of fifty-four years, and the love of his life. He is survived by his brother Patrick (Eivor) Taylor, his two loving children, Sean Taylor and Tammy (Glen) Wexler, his grandchildren Erin Taylor, Paige Taylor, Adam Taylor, Jenna Wexler and Ian Wexler, and his great-grandchildren Zack Botnik, Ayla Taylor, and Ulysses Taylor.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org).

VENET, Sidney

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

Ronald Joseph Apperson

March 7, 1934 - February 8, 2023

Ron was born in Monterey Park, to Robert Edwin and Kathryn Calvin Apperson. Ron grew up untethered in the undeveloped hills of Monterey Park, CA. He dug caves, built forts, and flourished in a freedom unavailable to youth today.

His leadership qualities became apparent at Mark Keppel High School where he presided as Student Body President, was a debate champion, a Junior Statesmen Representative to Sacramento and was therein elected Boy Governor.

Lifetime friendships continued at Pomona College. Ron remained committed to debate, joined Phi Delta fraternity, and served in Ghosts, the service Club. He became a learned historian, earning a master's degree in history at Claremont Graduate School (CGS).

Two lives were changed forever while Ron studied at CGS. (Perky) Charlene Gossett, then a senior at Pomona College, was swept off her feet by the intelligent, handsome, kind and highly –ethical guy. They dated, were engaged within 3 months, and married in June 1958.

The young couple joined an intern program at UC Berkeley for a General Secondary credential and were immediately teaching high school: Ron, History at Berkeley High, and Perky, French, at Alameda High. While living in the Bay area, Ron decided on a career and he earned a JD at Boalt School of Law in Berkeley while Perky continued teaching French. Baby Terry Anne was born during this time (1961), as was Jill Marie (1963). The family moved to West Covina as Ron started his law career, assigned to school law as Deputy County Counsel. In 1966 baby Annette Adele was born. Los Angeles Unified School District soon hired Ron as their Legal Advisor, a position he held for over three decades. Service to the community was important to Ron. He served 12 years on the Alhambra School Board, more than once as President. He served as President of Alhambra Rotary.

Ron was a good man with a kind heart. He was beloved husband, Dad and Bopi; He was fun and loving. He was a man of few words. His love was shown in his deeds. He was our protector, model of acceptance, and teacher of order. He was our plumber, gardener, mason, mechanic, carpenter and painter.

Ron and family enjoyed world travel and touring US national parks by car and motorhome. Ron was happiest, however, with his favorite rod and reel, bobbing atop a lake, sitting at a poker table with dear friends, fixing things, or enjoying a cigar beside his favorite therapists, Chocolate Labs, Grizzly and Ozzie.

Ron will always be the wind beneath our wings. He will be dearly missed by: wife, (Perky) Charlene Marie Apperson; daughters Terry Anne Woodward (Maria), Jill Marie Apperson, and Annette Apperson Pelton; grandchildren Katelyn Kelly Woodward, Kimberly Woodward Egan (Brian), Christina Marie Lowry, Dana Nadine Lowry, John Clinton Manly V, Ronald Joseph Manly, Tara Nicole Pelton, Natalie Michelle Pelton, Sean Robert Pelton, and great granddaughter Emilia Rose Egan.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests you consider donations to caltrout.org, a non-profit organization for sustainable wildlife.https://caltrout.org/give The family will have a private celebration of life. Ron will be interred at Rose Hills, Whittier. His family warmly welcomes your memory of Ron at the Rose Hills site https://www.rosehills.com

Gaye E. Hertan

March 7, 1961 - February 16, 2023

Gaye Hertan passed away on February 16, 2023, with her ever-loving husband holding her hand. Gaye was born to Victor and Myra Reve Hertan on March 7, 1961 in Denver, Colorado. She was raised in New York and Los Angeles, and graduated from Hamilton High School. She graduated from UCLA in 1983, where she met her future husband and soulmate Ronald Keoski. She earned her law degree from USC in 1987, and realized her life-long dream of becoming an attorney, first with Jones Day, and for the past 30 years with Seyfarth Shaw. Gaye and Ron had 3 wonderful sons, who she took great pride in guiding their growth to the extraordinary men they've become.

Gaye loved every aspect of her life, from her family, her friends, her career, her clients, and all things Disney. She is survived by her husband of 37 years; her sons Sean (Whitney), Dylan, and Ryan (Liz); her stepfather Ken Ziedman (Ellie); and her siblings Josh, Michelle and David. She is also survived by a number of nieces and nephews, who all loved their Aunt Gaye.

Everyone who knew Gaye loved her for her warm nature, her sense of humor, openness and kindness. We will all miss her, but will treasure our memories.

A memorial service will be held at Hillside Memorial Park in Los Angeles on Friday, March 31, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in the Large Chapel, 6001 W. Centinela Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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Los Angeles Times

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Los Angeles Times

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Partly to mostly sunny: Dry weather will be the rule across Southern California through Monday. Temperatures will remain below historical averages for this time of year. A storm system will approach the area Tuesday afternoon. Precipitation will spread south Tuesday night into Wednesday, with snow levels between 4,000 and 5,000 feet. Winds will become gusty.

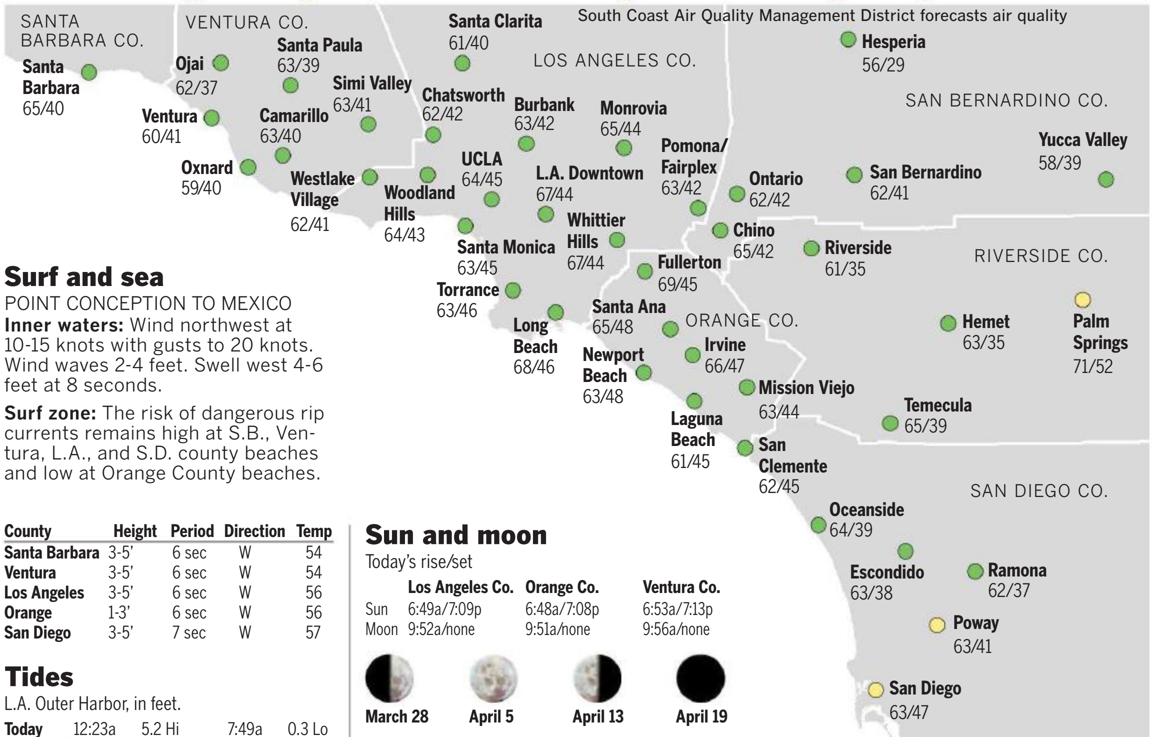
5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	67|44 Mostly sunny		62|43 Sun and cool		63|45 Mostly sunny		39|15 Mostly sunny; cold		71|52 Mostly sunny; cool	
Monday	Mostly sunny	69/48	Mostly sunny	69/44	Mostly sunny	65/46	Cold	41/22	Sunny	72/53
Tuesday	P.M. rain	66/48	P.M. rain	64/44	P.M. rain	60/48	Cold	44/30	Warmer	76/51
Wednesday	Rainy times	56/45	Downpours	55/42	Downpours	55/45	Flurries	40/22	Downpours	71/51
Thursday	A shower	60/47	A shower	58/45	A shower	56/48	A shower	36/19	A shower	67/51

Air quality

● Good ● Moderate Unhealthful for: ● Sensitive people ● All ○ Not Available



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind northwest at 10-15 knots with gusts to 20 knots. Wind waves 2-4 feet. Swell west 4-6 feet at 8 seconds.

Surf zone: The risk of dangerous rip currents remains high at S.B., Ventura, L.A., and S.D. county beaches and low at Orange County beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	3-5'	6 sec	W	54
Ventura	3-5'	6 sec	W	54
Los Angeles	3-5'	6 sec	W	56
Orange	1-3'	6 sec	W	56
San Diego	3-5'	7 sec	W	57

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	12:23a	5.2 Hi	7:49a	0.3 Lo
	2:29p	2.8 Hi	6:13p	2.4 Lo
Mon.	1:03a	4.8 Hi	9:13a	0.5 Lo
	------	Hi	------	Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 30	Phoenix, 30
Los Angeles, 30	San Francisco, 30

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:49a/7:09p	6:48a/7:08p	6:53a/7:13p
Moon	9:52a/none	9:51a/none	9:56a/none

◑ March 28 ○ April 5 ◐ April 13 ● April 19

Almanac

Saturday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	65/49	68/49	62/46
Normal high/low	71/53	72/52	67/47
High/low a year ago	72/52	80/53	59/50
Record high/date	96/1988	87/2015	94/1988
Record low/date	37/1902	45/2005	38/1977

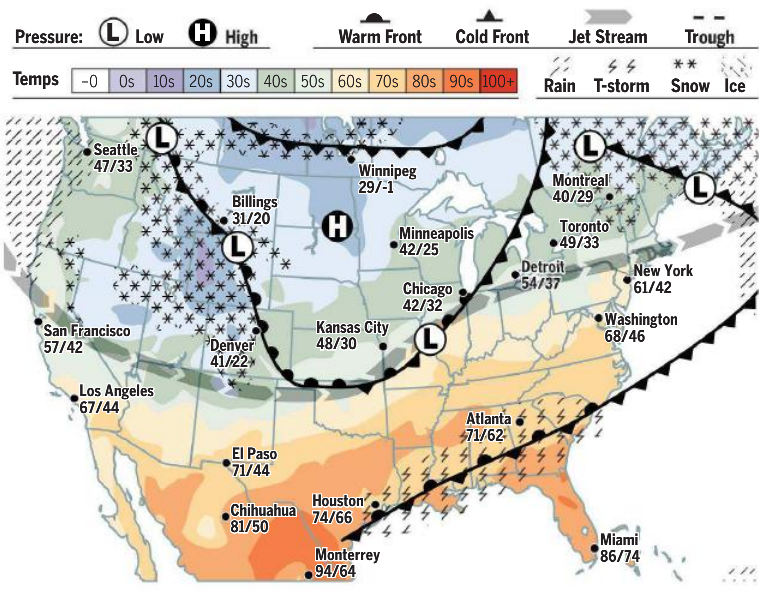
Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	26.09	19.47	24.54
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	10.51	5.80	9.56
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	12.69	10.45	14.25
Humidity (high/low)	58/31	83/35	76/38

California cities

City	Saturday Hi	Saturday Lo	Saturday Prcp.	Today Hi	Today Lo	Monday Hi	Monday Lo
Anaheim	69	47	--	67	45	73	46
Avalon/Catalina	55	45	--	54	47	62	48
Bakersfield	57	37	--	59	37	65	44
Barstow	62	38	--	61	35	61	41
Big Bear Lake	40	17	--	39	15	41	22
Bishop	53	31	--	50	24	51	31
Burbank	67	40	--	63	42	70	45
Camarillo	63	38	--	63	40	69	42
Chatsworth	66	44	--	62	42	67	44
Chino	65	38	--	65	42	69	41
Compton	63	47	--	68	44	72	46
Dana Point	59	47	--	61	46	66	49
Death Valley	72	58	--	70	52	70	56
Del Mar	60	46	.01	58	45	67	46
Escondido	67	43	--	63	38	71	41
Eureka	49	34	.10	51	33	51	43
Fallbrook	64	44	--	64	40	71	40
Fresno	60	41	--	61	37	64	45
Fullerton	68	49	--	69	45	74	47
Hemet	62	38	--	63	35	68	34
Hesperia	xx	xx	xx	56	29	59	36
Huntington Beach	64	45	--	64	47	70	48
Idyllwild	48	24	xx	47	32	50	33
Irvine	60	46	--	66	47	72	47
L.A. D'ntown/USC	65	49	--	67	44	69	48
L.A. Int'l. Airport	62	49	--	64	47	68	48
Laguna Beach	65	48	--	61	45	65	50
Lancaster	56	37	--	53	26	59	31
Long Beach	68	49	--	68	46	73	48
Mammoth Lakes	36	11	--	33	8	39	21
Mission Viejo	63	42	--	63	44	71	45
Monrovia	64	43	--	65	44	71	46
Monterey	54	39	--	55	37	59	45
Mt. Wilson	47	30	--	38	31	42	35
Needles	67	51	--	68	44	67	45
Newport Beach	59	50	--	63	48	70	49
Northridge	66	46	--	64	43	69	45
Oakland	59	43	--	57	38	58	47
Oceanside	62	43	--	64	39	71	42
Ojai	65	33	--	62	37	66	40
Ontario	64	40	--	62	42	68	42
Palm Springs	72	48	--	71	52	72	53
Pasadena	67	40	--	64	43	68	48
Paso Robles	60	36	--	60	29	62	33
Redding	55	38	--	59	34	54	40
Riverside	62	35	--	61	35	65	34
Sacramento	61	41	--	61	34	60	44
San Bernardino	64	40	--	62	41	67	40
San Diego	63	48	--	63	47	69	50
San Francisco	58	42	--	57	42	59	49
San Gabriel	xx	xx	xx	67	44	71	47
San Jose	58	39	--	60	36	61	44
San Luis Obispo	61	42	--	61	40	63	42
Santa Ana	63	51	--	65	48	70	50
Santa Barbara	68	48	--	65	40	64	42
Santa Clarita	60	35	--	61	40	65	40
Santa Monica Pier	63	48	--	63	45	65	46
Santa Paula	61	38	--	63	39	67	40
Santa Rosa	61	39	--	61	31	59	42
Simi Valley	65	46	--	63	41	68	38
Tahoe Valley	33	11	Tr	31	9	40	28
Temecula	65	39	--	65	39	72	40
Thousand Oaks	64	41	--	62	40	66	40
Torrance	66	43	--	63	46	69	50
UCLA	xx	xx	xx	64	45	69	46
Van Nuys	68	47	--	65	46	72	46
Ventura	62	46	--	60	41	63	46
Whittier Hills	68	47	--	67	44	71	48
Woodland Hills	xx	xx	xx	64	43	68	45
Wrightwood	40	25	--	43	28	47	33
Yorba Linda	68	44	--	65	43	70	44
Yosemite Valley	48	31	--	42	19	48	31

Today in North America

Storms in the Southeast: A stationary front will stretch from the Carolinas to central Louisiana. Along this front, showers and thunderstorms will develop throughout the day. These thunderstorms could bring damaging wind gusts, hail and tornadoes.



U.S. cities

SATURDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 94 in Sebring, Fla.

Low –9 in Bryce Canyon, Utah

City	Saturday Hi	Saturday Lo	Saturday Prcp.	Today Hi	Today Lo	Today Sky
Albany	41	29	.18	52	30	Cy
Albuquerque	48	31	Tr	49	30	Sn
Anchorage	30	17	.03	34	33	Su
Aspen	23	4	.05	25	11	Sf
Atlanta	83	58	.26	71	62	R
Austin	81	47	--	81	57	Pc
Baltimore	53	44	.24	68	42	Su
Boise	42	27	Tr	43	24	Pc
Boston	41	32	.04	57	39	Pc
Buffalo	50	34	.61	45	33	Pc
Burlington, Vt.	40	26	.03	45	32	Sn
Charleston, S.C.	81	65	.08	80	66	Ts
Charlotte	78	63	.10	71	60	Sh
Chicago	44	34	.82	42	32	Pc
Cincinnati	62	40	1.08	63	46	Pc
Cleveland	61	38	.40	55	40	Su
Columbia, S.C.	78	62	.09	73	63	Ts
Columbus	64	40	.86	60	43	Pc
Dallas/Ft.Worth	77	52	--	81	48	Su
Denver	37	18	.15	41	22	Sf
Detroit	51	35	.37	54	37	Pc
El Paso	67	41	--	71	44	Su
Eugene	48	35	.28	48	29	Sh
Fort Myers	89	69	--	90	69	Pc
Hartford	42	30	.22	59	33	Pc
Honolulu	86	74	--	84	72	Pc
Houston	85	62	--	74	66	Ts
Indianapolis	52	41	.96	62	40	Pc
Jacksonville, Fla.	89	61	--	90	66	Cy
Kansas City	61	35	.54	48	30	Cy
Knoxville	76	59	.70	77	53	Pc
Las Vegas	57	45	--	57	38	Pc
Louisville	64	50	1.28	69	48	Pc
Medford	47	31	.09	51	29	Sh
Memphis	68	54	.70	77	50	Pc
Miami	86	74	--	86	74	Pc
Milwaukee	43	33	.83	43	30	Pc
Minneapolis	45	31	--	42	25	Cy
Nashville	74	58	.63	76	51	Pc
New Orleans	85	73	--	82	70	Ts
New York	47	44	.16	61	42	Su
Norfolk	79	48	Tr	67	51	Pc
Oklahoma City	67	37	--	58	37	Cy
Omaha	57	35	--	44	21	Cy
Orlando	92	66	Tr	93	69	Pc
Philadelphia	49	44	.18	63	42	W
Phoenix	71	48	--	69	48	Su
Pittsburgh	69	43	.23	57	38	Su
Portland, Ore.	49	36	.14	48	32	Sh
Providence	43	32	.18	59	36	Pc
Raleigh/Durham	76	55	.06	72	57	Cy
Reno	46	30	--	40	22	Sf
Richmond	76	47	.04	75	48	Su
St. Louis	60	42	.04	68	39	Pc
Salt Lake City	38	30	Tr	37	26	Sf
Seattle	48	36	Tr	47	33	Sh
Tampa	84	69	Tr	87	71	Pc
Tucson	69	41	--	69	43	Su
Tulsa	64	36	--	59	37	Pc
Washington, D.C.	53	43	.57	68	46	W
Wichita	62	32	.01	51	31	Cy

World

City	Saturday Hi	Saturday Lo	Saturday Prcp.	Today Hi	Today Lo	Today Sky
Acapulco	85	67	--	85	66	Su
Amsterdam	54	48	1.09	48	36	R
Athens	71	46	--	75	54	Su
Bangkok	99	82	--	98	80	Su
Barcelona	63	50	--	71	51	Pc
Berlin	55	46	.47	53	35	Sh
Cabo San Lucas	82	55	--	80	58	Pc
Cairo	75	64	.04	75	59	Su
Dubai	79	66	--	88	75	Su
Dublin	54	43	.04	47	33	Pc
Havana	88	70	--	90	66	Su
Ho Chi Minh City	91	77	--	97	78	Su
Hong Kong	78	73	.81	69	65	R
Istanbul	58	45	--	59	49	Sh
Jerusalem	64	56	.09	63	48	W
Johannesburg	70	57	.23	76	54	Ts
Kuala Lumpur	87	76	.35	90	75	Ts
Lima	82	71	--	81	71	Pc
London	58	46	.12	48	35	R
Madrid	70	41	--	71	38	Su
Mecca	100	72	.26	90	64	Su
Mexico City	82	57	--	84	56	Hz
Montreal	37	27	.26	40	29	Sn
Moscow	48	39	.07	43	34	R
Mumbai	86	77	--	88	74	Hz
New Delhi	82	63	--	84	62	Hz
Paris	59	48	.08	55	38	R
Prague	54	45	.11	52	36	R
Rome	67	50	--	65	52	Pc
Seoul	64	38	--	61	30	Su
Singapore	85	77	.15	88	76	Ts
Taipei City	72	63	.97	62	58	R
Tokyo	54	50	.60	58	52	R
Vancouver	46	39	.14	48	34	Sh
Vienna	61	54	--	62	44	Cy

Key: Su sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Saturday's readings as of 5 p.m.

Forecasts by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023

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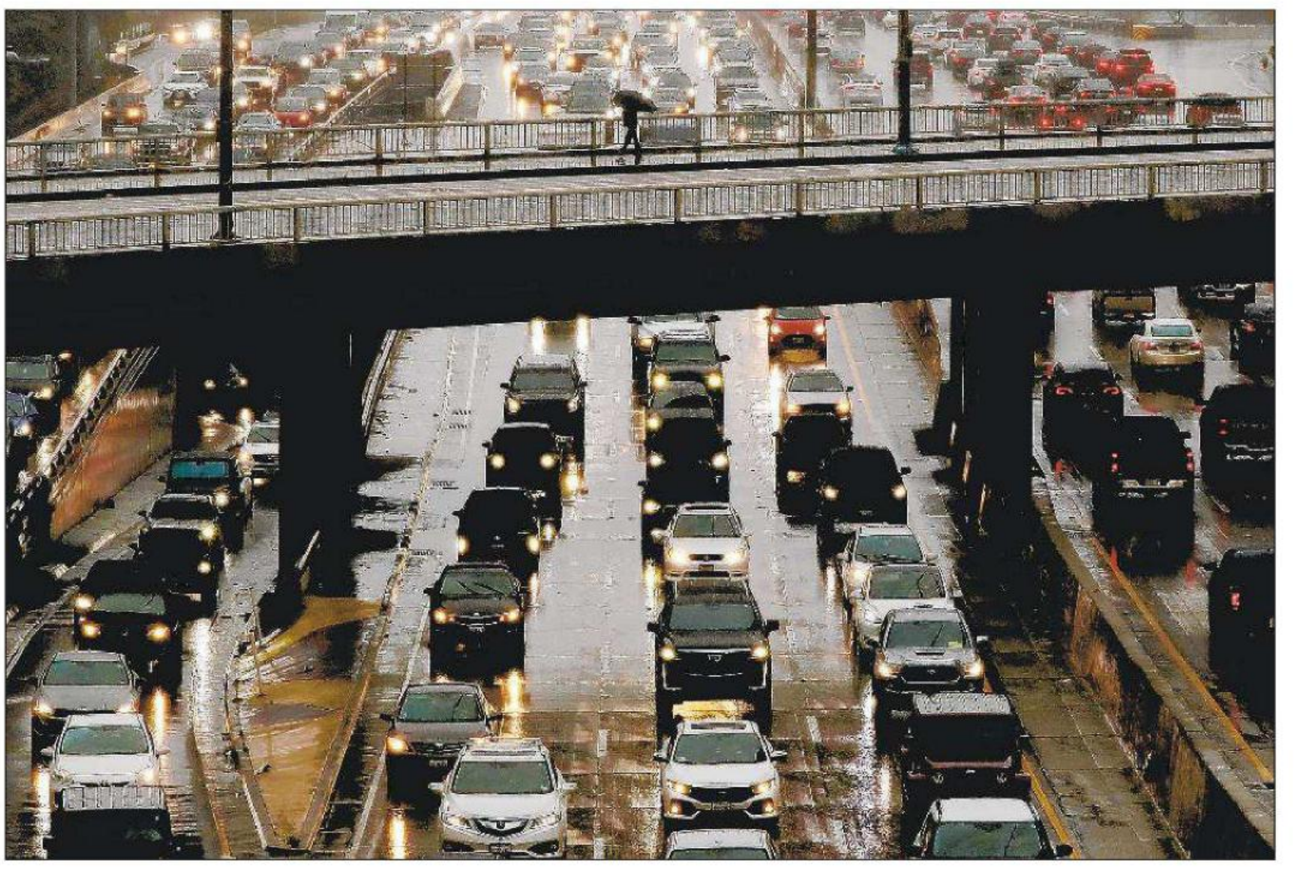
DMV rule for senior drivers is biased, some say



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

THE NUMBER of older drivers has risen sharply in the U.S. because of the age wave, but an insurance and safety group has found that fatal crashes involving drivers 70 and older remain down from their 1997 peak.

[**Lopez,** from B1]

"I just don't have a problem with it. I think you need to put a stake in the ground somewhere," Snyder said, and 70 strikes her as a fair number. And most, but not all, states have similar renewal requirements for older drivers.

Suzanne Arnaud, of San Jose, sees it differently. She was peeved about having to take the written exam, or knowledge test, as the DMV calls it. "I have never had an accident in 60 years of driving," she wrote in a complaint published in "Mr. Roadshow," Gary Richards' traffic column in the San Jose Mercury News.

When I reached Arnaud, 75, she'd already renewed her license, but she was still in a lather.

"I think it's age discrimination, because to me, what they should be looking at is an individual's driving record," she said.

They also should be looking at what all of us can plainly see — highways and byways are racetracks, and the pandemic made driving even more dangerous because so many knuckleheads used the lighter traffic as an invitation to drive like maniacs. It's still crazy out there, but it's not Grandma and Grandpa who drive as if they're auditioning for parts in the "Fast and Furious."

Though I will admit that driving too slowly, as some older drivers tend to do, can be just as dangerous as going too fast.

So what can we learn from crash statistics?

First off, the number of older drivers has risen sharply in the U.S. because of the age wave.

But the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that as of 2018, the number of fatal crashes involving drivers 70 and older had "recently increased, but they remain down from their 1997 peak, even as the number of licensed older drivers and the miles they drive have increased."

The California Highway Patrol reports that in 2019, drivers 70 and older made up 10.4% of all licensed California drivers. But they were involved in only 7.2% of fatal crashes and 5.5% of injury crashes.

Two age groups stood out for being overrepresented in crashes.

Drivers 20-24 made up 8.1% of licensed drivers in California but were involved in 11.9% of fatal crashes and 12.5% of injury crashes. And folks 25-29 made up 10% of all drivers but were involved in 13.4% of fatal crashes and 12.8% of injury crashes.

A DMV spokesman said those numbers are misleading because younger drivers put in more miles than older drivers.

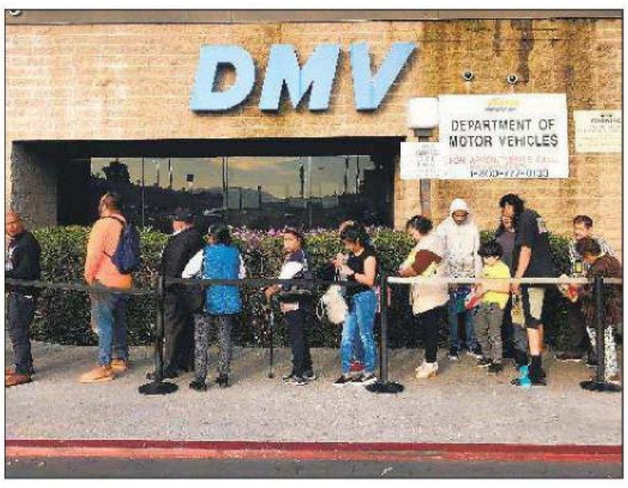
"Seniors are among the safest drivers on the road in terms of both collisions and convictions," said the spokesman. "However, when taking account of miles driven, collision rates [but not convictions] start to rise at age 70."

> 'I think it's age discrimination, because to me, what they should be looking at is an individual's driving record.'
>
> — SUZANNE ARNAUD, 75-year-old San Jose driver

OK, but if drivers 70 and older drive less and are more inclined to take short trips to the post office and the supermarket, is the extra burden of testing justified?

Attorney Rodney Gould doesn't think so.

"A 70-year-old today is markedly different from what a 70-year-old was in, say, the 1970s," said Gould, whose San Fernando Valley law firm represents clients of all ages doing battle over license suspensions and other issues.



CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS

THE IN-PERSON rule for older drivers was temporarily waived for the pandemic, but the waiver ended.

I won't go so far as to say that 70 is the new 50, but I'm with Gould. Since launching the Golden State column, I hear regularly from people 70 and older asking me to go watch them surf, play ice hockey, run marathons and launch second and third careers.

"People are generally in better health," said Gould, "and I don't see anything to make me think that 70 should be the magic cutoff age."

The knowledge test for drivers 70 and older is computerized, Gould said, and that's an unfair challenge for people who didn't grow up with computers. He said he's arranged for clients to request that a DMV rep read the questions aloud, so the applicant can answer verbally.

By the way, if you're due for the DMV knowledge test, don't assume it's a snap. Several people recommended not just reading, but studying, the DMV test guide.

In San Jose, Arnaud said she struggled with a question about the fine for abandoning an animal on a highway. (It's punishable by a fine of up to $1,000, six months in jail, or both.)

Mike Lynch, a 73-year-old political consultant, said in an op-ed for the Modesto Bee that he flunked twice. On one failed effort, he missed two questions about blood-alcohol levels.

"I went home and studied for like three hours," Lynch told me, and he passed on his third try.

Lynch said despite his flunked exams, the entire process was relatively hassle-free at the Turlock DMV office, and he's not opposed to the in-person testing requirement.

I don't know that I'll be quite as compliant as Lynch when my license comes up for renewal.

If I've had a ticket or two and plowed into a tree, sure, give me the eye exam, the written test and even a driving test.

But if I'm still clean, let it ride. Because 70 isn't what it used to be.

steve.lopez@latimes.com

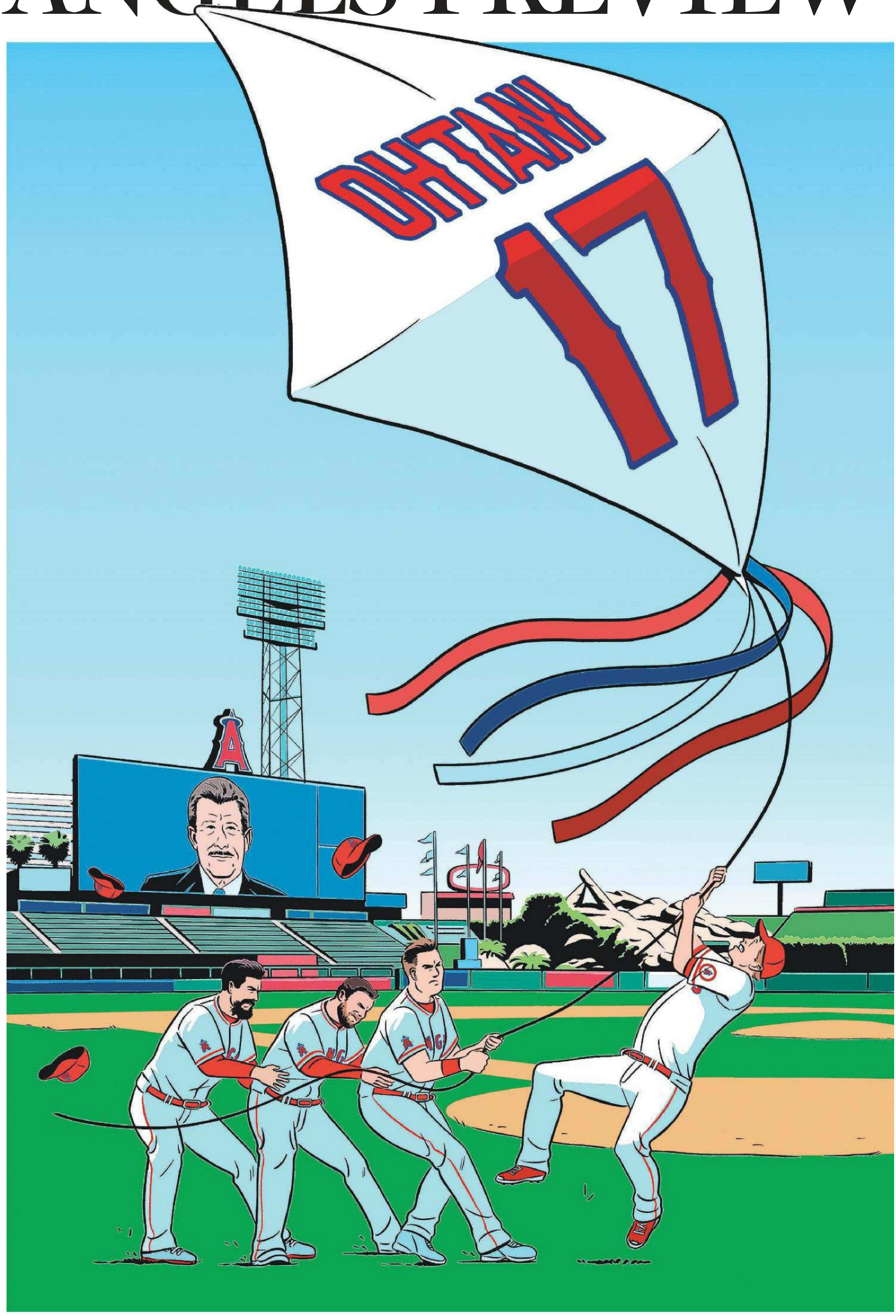
GOLDEN STATE

California is about to be hit by an aging population wave, and Steve Lopez is riding it. His new column will focus on the blessings and burdens of advancing age — and how some folks are challenging the stigma associated with older adults.

†

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023 Los Angeles Times LATIMES.COM/SPORTS D

ANGELS PREVIEW



Madison Ketcham For The Times

Ohtani has Angels on a string

Moreno creating path for a trade, so enjoy phenom while he's here

DYLAN HERNÁNDEZ

Would the Angels actually trade Shohei Ohtani this season?

There's no excuse for a big-market team to ever deal a star player, but if the Angels had to trade Ohtani, the time to do so was last year.

If they trade Ohtani three months before he becomes a free agent, the Angels would receive just a fraction of the bounty they would have gained by trading him a year earlier.

So why is owner Arte Moreno implying the Angels could move Ohtani this summer?

Say farewell to the vision of a Dodgers-like transformation. Abandon the dream of a better tomorrow. Prepare for the worst.

Moreno is back.

I've written before that I think it's in both the best interests of Ohtani and baseball for him to sign with another team next winter. He should have a

[See **Hernández,** D2]

DODGERS PREVIEW

Coming Monday

The Dodgers and all of their moving puzzle pieces for the upcoming season will be previewed.

Team tries to upgrade roster with a postseason run and star in mind

By Sarah Valenzuela

Take a look at the Angels' promotional calendar. There's plenty of free Shohei Ohtani merchandise. Bobbleheads, a T-shirt, tote bag, even a blanket and a puzzle. In April there are four scheduled items to be given out at home games.

Take a closer look. The last day on the promotional schedule that anything Ohtani-related will be given out is July 1 — a few weeks before the trade deadline.

No one has outright said Ohtani will be traded. Actually, Angels owner Arte Moreno explicitly said in an interview with Sports Illustrated the team would not trade Ohtani while it is in playoff contention. Moreno also told reporters in Tempe, Ariz., on March 18 that extension discussions with Ohtani and his representative had not yet occurred.

Ohtani's status as an Angel is not guaranteed after this year as the two-way star is eligible for free agency after the season. More to the point, a lot can happen between now and the trade

[See **Angels,** D2]

SPORTS ON THE BACK: South Carolina's defense overwhelms UCLA in Sweet 16. **D8**

Ohtani's future with Angels appears dim with Moreno in charge

[**Hernández,** from D1]
chance of playing October baseball every season, and that won't happen on a team owned by Moreno.

That doesn't mean the Angels should just let him go. On the contrary, they have to do everything in their power to keep him. If Moreno can't re-sign Ohtani, what is he even doing in this business? Losing Ohtani would be the single greatest failure of an owner who has become synonymous with failure.

But rather than show he will fight to retain his star attraction, Moreno has started to construct a pathway for him to leave town. After deciding to not sell the Angels, Moreno promptly resumed giving a master class on what not to do as a team owner when he conducted an interview with Sports Illustrated this month.

"I will say it on the record," Moreno told the publication. "We will not trade Ohtani while we are contending for a playoff spot."

Asked if he would make the same promise about a scenario in which the Angels aren't contending, Moreno replied, "I'm not going to answer that, and I'll tell you why."

The explanation that followed wasn't important. What was important was that Moreno answered the question by not answering it.

He wouldn't promise to keep Ohtani.

Moreno is 76. Maybe he misspoke. Maybe he wanted to leave himself an out in case another pandemic brings the global economy back to its knees. But it's hard to read that and not think the Angels will be dealing their main attraction at the trade deadline.

Once again, this raises questions about why the Angels didn't deal Ohtani last year if they didn't intend to hold on to him through the upcoming season regardless of their performance. The delay in trading him could have cost them a chance to restock their depleted farm system with high-end talent, which could have included can't-miss prospect Jasson Dominguez of the New York Yankees.

The oddly timed flip-flop only reinforces the industry-wide view of the Angels as lacking any kind of long-term vision, good or bad, and that's on Moreno.

The good news: Ohtani will be in Southern California for at least four months more.

The Angels' appalling failure to take advantage of his presence at a below-market rate — he made just $3.5 million when he won the American League most valuable player award in 2021 and $5.5 million last year — shouldn't take away from his status as a once-in-a-lifetime performer.

Enjoy him while he's still here.

Ohtani is entering his sixth season and will turn 29 in July, but his most productive years could be ahead of him.

With arm trouble limiting him to a combined 12 starts over his first three seasons with the Angels, Ohtani didn't have his first full season as a two-way player until 2021.

"He still has limitless room for growth," San Diego Padres right-hander Yu Darvish said in a recent interview on former Japanese league player Yutaka Takagi's YouTube channel.

Darvish played with Ohtani for Japan in the World Baseball Classic and carefully observed him. At some point in his conversation with Takagi, Darvish mentioned Roki Sasaki, a 21-year-old right-hander who has touched 102 mph with his fastball. Sasaki, who plays in the Japanese league, is considered the best pitching prospect in the world.

Darvish said of Ohtani, "I think he's a pitcher who has as much room for growth as Sasaki."

In the quarterfinals of the WBC, Ohtani threw a 102-mph fastball against Italy — his fastest recorded pitch since he signed with the Angels.

On the mound last year, Ohtani was 15-9 with a 2.33 earned-run average in 28 starts. He batted .273 with 34 home runs and 95 runs batted in.

Whether the Angels win or lose, Ohtani is a show all his own. In his interview with Sports Illustrated, Moreno used that as justification for rejecting trade offers for him last year. He said Angels fans are "going to tell their grandkids, 'I saw Ohtani play.' "

Great point. But why doesn't that logic extend to the upcoming season? Why isn't Moreno closing the door on trading Ohtani under any circumstances? So what if Ohtani doesn't sign a contract extension with the Angels before the season? Shouldn't they keep him and exhaust every possibility of re-signing him?

Now, with six teams from each league qualifying for the playoffs, it's likely the Angels will be in contention at the trade deadline and as a result will keep Ohtani through the season. Still, Moreno's philosophical inconsistencies are alarming and Ohtani is too attentive not to have noticed them, regardless of any language barrier.

By now, Ohtani has to know the Angels won't ever win with Moreno in charge, even if the politeness built into the Japanese culture won't allow him to voice these concerns.

A little more than a week after his interview with Sports Illustrated was published, Moreno addressed Ohtani's future again in a scrum with reporters at the Angels' spring training complex.

Moreno said to the reporters without any trace of irony, "Ohtani has to want to be here too. It's a two-way street."

Ohtani wants to win.

Before his start in the WBC quarterfinals, Ohtani was asked about how he was smiling and how much fun he seemed to be having playing for Japan.

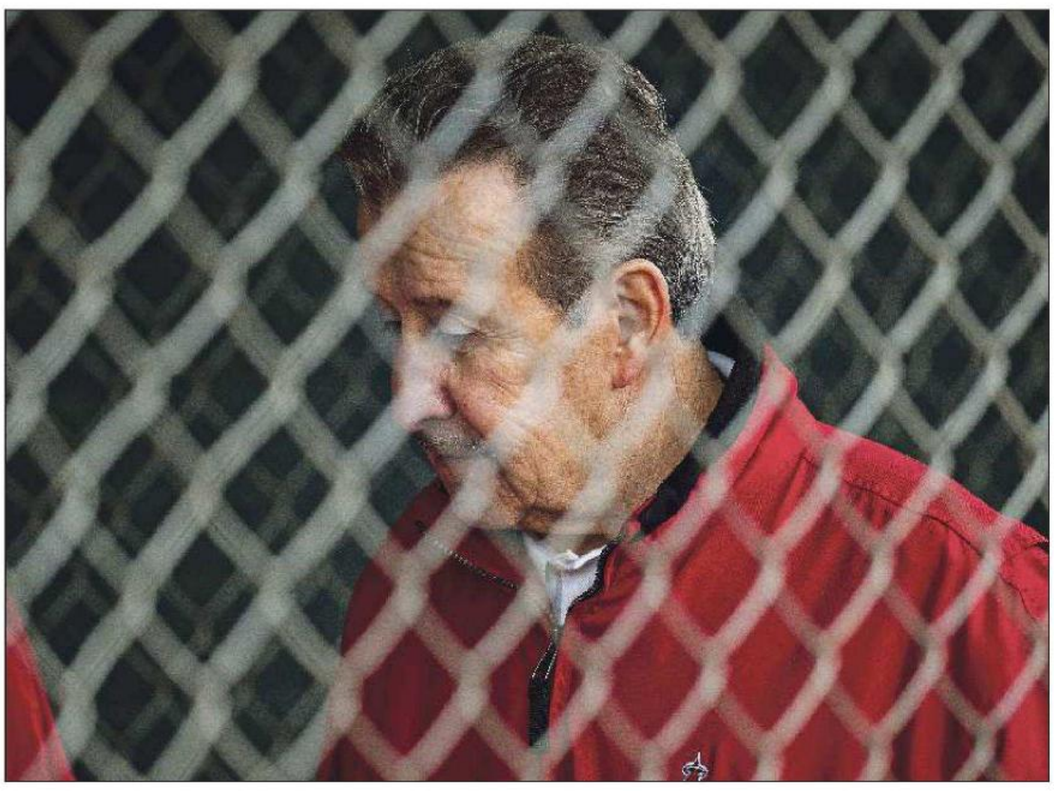
"When you win, it's fun," Ohtani told reporters in Tokyo. "When you lose, it's frustrating. I think it's that simple."

Ohtani experienced the greatest triumph of his career in the WBC, striking out Mike Trout to close out Japan's 3-2 victory over the United States in the championship game. He has since returned to an Angels franchise that last made the postseason in 2014.

Next winter, Ohtani will have the option of escaping to a team that can make the game more fun for him. The Angels will be stuck with Moreno.

Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

ENTERING HIS SIXTH season, Shohei Ohtani, 28, could have his best seasons ahead of him. He could be the first MLB player to receive a contract worth half a billion dollars.

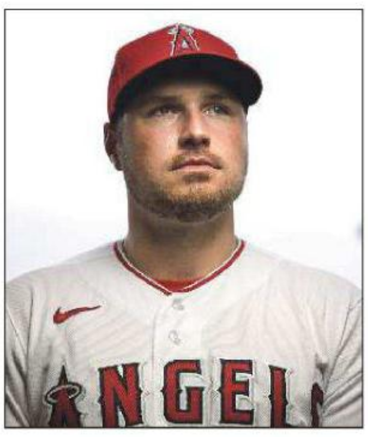

Gina Ferazzi Los Angeles Times

ARTE MORENO hasn't fully committed to keeping Ohtani, though the owner of the Angels predicted fans will tell their grandchildren that they saw the two-way star play.

Roster upgraded with postseason and Ohtani in mind

Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

MIKE TROUT had praise for the Angels' offseason moves.


Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

HUNTER RENFROE is a major addition to the offense.

Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

TYLER ANDERSON had a big 2022 season as a Dodger.

[**Angels,** from D1]
deadline.

The Angels, who haven't finished with a winning record since Ohtani made his debut in 2018, spent the offseason trying to improve the roster.

Their goal, other than changing their own narrative and forming a winning team, is to give Ohtani — who could be the first player in MLB history to receive a contract worth half a billion dollars — a reason to re-sign.

From a business and marketing standpoint, the promotion precaution makes sense.

What happens when a planned player-themed promotional item is scheduled for the second half of the season and the player is traded?

"This is why teams have to be so thoughtful about who they're going to put on a second-half-of-the-season item," said Jay Deutsch, chief executive and founder of Bensussen Deutsch & Associates.

The company works with retail organizations and sports teams, creating branded merchandise and consulting on release calendars.

It does not do much business with the Angels, most of its work coming with the Dodgers.

Deutsch offered insight into what the branded merchandise industry looks like for MLB teams. (The Angels did not return a request for comment on their promotional calendar.)

"If someone's in the final year of their contract, if someone is not playing so well, all those things are taken into consideration," Deutsch said. "So there's a strategy that teams have to deploy in order to try to make sure that they don't have that situation take place."

The 2021 American League most valuable player already helps rake in plenty of revenue for the Angels just in Ohtani-related advertising and marketing agreements. Roughly $10 million a year that the Angels don't want to lose, The Times reported last year.

There's already evidence of potential sponsors being less interested because of the uncertainty.

Excel Sports Management is the agency that helped the team find its jersey patch partner. The agency said that although there were a number of Japanese companies interested in the program, since Ohtani wasn't guaranteed to be on the team after this year and sponsorship is a minimum three-year deal, it made it difficult for many Japanese brands to commit.

Ultimately the decision to stay or go will come down to Ohtani, who has said that his priority is winning. And while the marketing department can't control whether Ohtani stays, the group he takes the field with any given day certainly can try.

On paper, the Angels are an improvement over last season's team. They have acquired major league talent to fill the holes in their roster and create depth.

The newcomers include starting pitcher Tyler Anderson, relievers Carlos Estévez and Matt Moore, infielders Gio Urshela and Brandon Drury and outfielders Hunter Renfroe and Brett Phillips. They join a team returning healthy players to start the season in Anthony Rendon, Griffin Canning, Jared Walsh and David Fletcher, among others.

Ohtani and Mike Trout shared positive sentiments about the new players. Trout said the offseason moves were a "sign in the right direction" and Ohtani said they were "probably the best acquisitions in the past few years."

Anderson almost pitched a no-hitter against the Angels last June — a moment broken up by Ohtani's ninth-inning triple (but technically broken up by Walsh in the seventh, a scoring change MLB made after the game).

Anderson found success as a starter transitioning out of the bullpen out of necessity for the Dodgers. Moore did a similar thing, going from a starter to the bullpen for the Texas Rangers.

Renfroe's ability is undisputed, MLB Network ranking him the major's 10th-best right fielder, both for his throwing arm and his power bat.

Phillips, who figures to play more of a backup outfield role, also has proven talent and is fast on the basepaths.

Urshela already proved himself as a not-to-be-overlooked third baseman with the New York Yankees and the Minnesota Twins. His move to the Angels received nods of approval from manager Phil Nevin, who was the Yankees' third base coach when Urshela broke out there, and Rendon.

The Angels plan to play Urshela at third when Rendon needs rest days, but also elsewhere around the infield in a utility role they also want Drury — who was part of the San Diego Padres' 2022 postseason run — to assume.

In spring training, Urshela has played third base and shortstop. Drury has had time at second and third base.

With the exception of Rendon and Trout, the Angels figure to move some of the position players around the field depending on matchups.

And if all those pieces fit, they might avoid being sellers again at the trade deadline.

Former Angel Albert Pujols, who was at spring camp as part of his new role as special assistant to the club, highlighted general manager Perry Minasian's offseason moves and that depth as a key characteristic of any playoff-caliber team.

Moreno, in the Sports Illustrated interview, said, "We expect to be a playoff contender. Everything in our plans putting this team together is about getting to the playoffs."

Minasian reiterated over the winter and through spring training that the Angels are an improved team, but he also has been realistic about their competition in the American League West.

"There's not that many rebuilding teams per se, so there is a lot of parity," Minasian told The Times' Bill Shaikin. "Our division is really difficult. Houston is the class of the division. Seattle made the playoffs last year. They're not going anywhere. Texas had a huge offseason, two in a row."

The Angels haven't competed in the playoffs since 2014, when they were swept in three games by the Kansas City Royals. Their last postseason win came in 2009.

But there is some reason for hope, to believe Ohtani and Trout might get the chance to play meaningful October baseball.

And maybe, just maybe, Ohtani-related promos will be on the Angels' calendar another full year.

PROJECTED ROSTER

Pitchers

Name	T	W-L-S	BB	SO	ERA	WHIP
Tyler Anderson	L	15-5-0	34	138	2.57	1.00
2023 salary: $13 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2025.						
Jaime Barría	R	3-3-0	19	54	2.61	1.03
2023 salary: $1.05 million. **Contract:** Team control through 2026.						
***Griffin Canning**	R	0-0-0	0	0	0	0
2023 salary: $850,000. **Contract:** Team control through 2026.						
Reid Detmers	L	7-6-0	46	122	3.77	1.21
2023 salary: $720,000. **Contract:** Team control through 2028.						
Carlos Estévez	R	4-4-2	23	54	3.47	1.18
2023 salary: $6.75 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2024.						
Jimmy Herget	R	2-1-9	15	63	2.48	0.91
2023 salary: $720,000. **Contract:** Team control through 2027.						
Aaron Loup	L	0-5-1	22	52	3.84	1.30
2023 salary: $7.5 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2023.**						
Matt Moore	L	5-2-5	38	83	1.95	1.18
2023 salary: $7.55 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2023.						
José Quijada	L	0-5-3	21	52	3.98	1.13
2023 salary: $720,000. **Contract:** Team control through 2027.						
Patrick Sandoval	L	6-9-0	60	151	2.91	1.34
2023 salary: $2.75 million. **Contract:** Team control through 2027.						
José Suarez	L	8-8-0	33	103	3.96	1.25
2023 salary: $720,000. **Contract:** Team control through 2027.						
Ryan Tepera	R	5-4-6	20	47	3.61	1.08
2023 salary: $7 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2023.						

*Injured 2022 season; **Player option for 2024.

Two-Way Player

Name	T	W-S-L	BB	SO	ERA	WHIP
Shohei Ohtani	R	15-9-0	44	219	2.33	1.01
	B/T	HR	RBI	AVG.	OBP.	SLG.
	L/R	34	95	.273	.356	.519
2023 salary: $30 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2023.						

Catchers

Name	B/T	HR	RBI	AVG.	OBP.	SLG.
Logan O'Hoppe	R/R	0	2	.286	.375	.286
2023 salary: $720,000. **Contract:** Team control through 2029.						
Max Stassi	R/R	9	30	.180	.267	.303
2023 salary: $7 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2024.*						
Matt Thaiss	L/R	2	8	.217	.321	.319
2023 salary: $720,000. **Contract:** Team control through 2028.						

*Team option for 2025.

Infielders

Name	B/T	HR	RBI	AVG.	OBP.	SLG.
Brandon Drury	R/R	28	87	.263	.320	.492
2023 salary: $8.5 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2024.						
David Fletcher	R/R	2	17	.255	.288	.333
2023 salary: $6 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2025.*						
Anthony Rendon	R/R	5	24	.229	.326	.380
2023 salary: $38.6 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2026.						
Luis Rengifo	S/R	17	52	.264	.294	.429
2023 salary: $2.3 million. **Contract:** Team control through 2026.						
Gio Urshela	R/R	13	64	.285	.338	.429
2023 salary: $8.4 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2023.						
Jared Walsh	L/L	15	44	.215	.269	.374
2023 salary: $2.65 million. **Contract:** Team control through 2026.						

*Player option for 2026 and 2027.

Outfielders

Name	B/T	HR	RBI	AVG.	OBP.	SLG.
Brett Phillips	L/R	5	15	.144	.217	.249
2023 salary: $1.2 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2023.						
Hunter Renfroe	R/R	29	72	.255	.315	.492
2023 salary: $11.9 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2023.						
Mike Trout	R/R	40	80	.283	.369	.630
2023 salary: $37.12 million. **Contract:** Signed through 2030.						
Taylor Ward	R/R	23	65	.281	.360	.473
2023 salary: $2.75 million. **Contract:** Team control through 2027.						

DANIEL SHIREY Getty Images

GENERAL MANAGER Perry Minasian eschewed pursing a splashy signing in the offseason, instead focusing on building the Angels' depth. "We wanted to ... fill as many holes as we could," he said.

With Angels, no guarantees

Minasian proud of offseason moves but remains cautious

BILL SHAIKIN
ON BASEBALL

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Angels could use a bit of swagger. They could use an October too.

Yes or no, Perry Minasian: Is this a playoff team?

"We'll find out," Minasian said.

Minasian, the Angels' general manager, earned respect throughout the sport for a second consecutive winter of guiding owner Arte Moreno away from the brightest stars in the free-agent constellation and focusing instead on desperately needed depth.

No team in the major leagues has a longer playoff drought. This is the time to guarantee October.

Dave Roberts, the Dodgers' manager, guaranteed a World Series last spring. The guarantee was not unfounded. It stirred interest, even if the Dodgers did not make it to the World Series. No harm done.

Come on, Perry Minasian, guarantee your long-suffering fans a postseason spot. The Angels' attendance last season was their worst in 20 years.

"I've been around too long in this game," he said. "You never know. I'm just not a guarantee person."

I am not asking you to tempt the baseball gods, or to guarantee the Angels win the World Series, or even win the American League West. I am just asking you to guarantee the Angels win one of the 12 postseason spots available to the 30 major league teams.

So, one last time: Is this a playoff team?

"You've seen playoff teams," he said. "You tell me. You can say we're short. You're not going to hurt my feelings.

"It seems like a lot of people are picking us third, fourth, whatever."

Your team finished third last season. Your team is better, right?

"So is everybody else," Minasian said.

Of the 15 American League teams, FanGraphs projects the top 10 — the Angels included — to win from 80 and 90 games.

"There's not that many rebuilding teams per se, so there is a lot of parity," Minasian said. "Our division is really difficult. Houston is the class of the division. Seattle made the playoffs last year. They're not going anywhere. Texas had a huge offseason, two in a row."

And your Angels?

"We like what we've done," he said. "It's always fun to make the big splash. As a sports fan myself, when my basketball team or my football team goes out there and gets the best player, you get excited.

"For us, we already have some high-end talent. We really wanted to focus on improving the middle of the roster. Instead of going and pushing the chips in on one player, we wanted to spread it out and try and fill as many holes as we could."

Sounds familiar.

One winter ago, the Angels spent $120 million on starting pitchers Noah Syndergaard and Michael Lorenzen, closer Raisel Iglesias, and relievers Archie Bradley, Aaron Loup and Ryan Tepera.

Baseball Prospectus projected the Angels to win 88 games last season, with a 68% chance of making the playoffs. FanGraphs projected the Angels to win 82 games, with a 39% chance of making the playoffs.

The Angels won 73 games. They failed to post a winning record for the seventh consecutive season, failed to make the playoffs for the eighth consecutive season, failed to win a postseason game for the 13th consecutive season. Syndergaard and Iglesias were traded during the season, with the Angels saving about $58 million.

"We need to keep our high-end talent on the field," Minasian said. "But we cannot have one injury and have the season be over. It can't happen. That's on me. I needed to do a better job of filling this roster to where we can withstand certain situations that happened over the course of the year."

Over the last winter, the Angels spent $97 million on starting pitcher Tyler Anderson, closer candidate Carlos Estévez, reliever Matt Moore, and infielders Brandon Drury and Gio Urshela, and outfielder Hunter Renfroe.

The projections are similar: Baseball Prospectus: 86 wins, and a 52% chance of October; FanGraphs: 83 wins, and a 41% chance of October.

The depth additions this year and last, while certainly prudent, cannot solve for the two greatest hurdles standing between the Angels and October.

The Angels were 27-19 when Mike Trout and Anthony Rendon played regularly together for most of the first two months last season, and 46-70 thereafter. That's almost .600 ball with both stars healthy, not even. 400 ball beyond then.

It is better to have Drury and Urshela than, say, Phil Gosselin and Jack Mayfield. It is nonetheless too much to ask even Drury and Urshela to make up for any extended absences of Trout and Rendon, neither of whom has played even 120 games since 2019.

The Angels also are dependent on the uncertain progress of every starting pitcher not named Shohei Ohtani.

All of the Angels' top five starters posted an ERA under 4.00 last season. An encore, like a playoff berth, is not guaranteed.

Did Anderson truly reinvent his career with the Dodgers last summer, at 32, or did he simply enjoy a career year? Can Reid Detmers, Patrick Sandoval and José Suarez maintain effectiveness while increasing their workload? None of those three pitchers have thrown 150 innings in a major league season; Suarez has not thrown even 110.

The Dodgers signed Anderson for depth last season, then helped him develop into an All-Star. For all the attention the Angels paid to depth for this season, they did not sign a proven major league starter for the back end of the rotation, or for insurance against the inevitable turns of ineffectiveness and injury among the top five.

Neither did the Dodgers, but their depth starters this season rank among baseball's top 100 prospects, so the Dodgers could promote them, or trade them for a front-line starter, or some combination of both. The Angels have no pitchers among baseball's top 100 prospects.

"Starters are expensive," Minasian said. "You sign another starter, and it takes away from some of the other things."

Shortstops are expensive too. The Angels did not sign one, despite a market offering four outstanding but expensive options. They will start the season, at least, with shortstop by committee.

You can see why Minasian is cautious. The Angels are in the exact same position they were this time last year: If things go right, you could see October from here.

That's not a guarantee. For a team that last appeared in the playoffs during the Obama administration, it is what it is: fingers crossed, and play ball.

SCHEDULE HOME GAMES SHADED; TIMES PACIFIC

MARCH/APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				30 **OAK** 7 p.m. BSW	**31**	**1 OAK** 1 p.m. BSW
2 OAK 1 p.m. BSW	**3 SEA** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**4 SEA** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**5 SEA** 1 p.m. BSW	**6**	**7 TOR** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**8 TOR** 6 p.m. BSSC
9 TOR 1 p.m. BSW	**10 WAS** 6:30 p.m. BSSC	**11 WAS** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**12 WAS** 1 p.m. BSW	**13**	**14 BOS** 4 p.m. Apple TV	**15 BOS** 1 p.m. BSW
16 BOS 10:30 a.m. BSW	**17 BOS** 8 a.m. BSW	**18 NYY** 4 p.m. BSW	**19 NYY** 4 p.m. BSW	**20 NYY** 1 p.m. BSW	**21 KC** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**22 KC** 6 p.m. BSW
23 KC 1 p.m. BSW	24 **OAK** 6:30 p.m. BSW, FS1	**25 OAK** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**26 OAK** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**27 OAK** 1 p.m. BSW	**28 MIL** 5 p.m. BSW	**29 MIL** 4 p.m. BSW
30 MIL 11 a.m. BSW						

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	**2 STL** 4:45 p.m. BSW	**3 STL** 4:45 p.m. BSW	**6 STL** 10:15 a.m. BSW	**5 TEX** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**6 TEX** 6 p.m. BSW
7 TEX 1 p.m. BSW	**8 HOU** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**9 HOU** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**10 HOU** 1 p.m. BSW	**11**	**12 CLE** 4 p.m. BSW	**13 CLE** 3 p.m. BSW
14 CLE 8:30 a.m. Peacock	**15 BAL** 3:30 p.m. BSW	**16 BAL** 3:30 p.m. BSW	**17 BAL** 3:30 p.m. BSW	**18 BAL** 9:30 a.m. BSW	**19 MIN** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**20 MIN** 7 p.m. BSW
21 MIN 1 p.m. BSW	**22 BOS** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**23 BOS** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**24 BOS** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**25**	**26 MIA** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**27 MIA** 7 p.m. BSW
28 MIA 1 p.m. BSW	**29 CHW** 5 p.m. BSW	**30 CHW** 5 p.m. BSW	**31 CHW** 11 a.m. BSW			

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 HOU 5 p.m. BSW	**2 HOU** 5 p.m. BSW	**3 HOU** 1 p.m. BSW
4 HOU 11 a.m. ESPN	**5**	**6 CHC** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**7 CHC** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**8 CHC** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**9 SEA** 6:30 p.m. Apple TV	**10 SEA** 7 p.m. BSW
11 SEA 1 p.m. BSW	**12 TEX** 5 p.m. BSW	**13 TEX** 5 p.m. BSW	**14 TEX** 5 p.m. BSW	**15 TEX** 5 p.m. BSW	**16 KC** 5 p.m. BSW	**17 KC** 1 p.m. BSW
18 KC 11 a.m. BSW	**19**	**20 LAD** 7 p.m. BSW, TBS	**21 LAD** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**22**	**23 COL** 5:30 p.m. BSW	**24 COL** 6 p.m. BSW
25 COL Noon. BSW	**26 CHW** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**27 CHW** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**28 CHW** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**29 CHW** 1 p.m. BSW	**30 ARI** 6:30 p.m. Apple TV	

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 ARI 7 p.m. BSW
2 ARI 1 p.m. BSW	**3 SD** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**4 SD** 3:30 p.m. BSW	**5 SD** 5:30 p.m. BSW	**6**	**7 LAD** 7 p.m. BSW	**8 LAD** 6 p.m. BSW
9	**10**	**11** All-Star Game	**12**	**13**	**14 HOU** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**15 HOU** 6 p.m. BSW
16 HOU 1 p.m. BSW	**17 NYY** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**18 NYY** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**19 NYY** 4 p.m. BSW	**20**	**21 PIT** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**22 PIT** 6 p.m. BSW
23 PIT 1 p.m. BSW	**24**	**25 DET** 3:30 p.m. BSW	**26 DET** 3:30 p.m. BSW	**27 DET** 10 a.m. BSW	**28 TOR** 4 p.m. BSW	**29 TOR** Noon BSW
30 TOR 9 a.m. Peacock	**31 ATL** 4:15 p.m. BSW					

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 ATL 4:15 p.m. BSW	**2 ATL** 9:15 a.m. BSW	**3 SEA** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**4 SEA** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**5 SEA** 6 p.m. BSW
6 SEA 1 p.m. BSW	**7 SF** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**8 SF** 6:30p.m. BSW	**9 SF** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**10**	**11 HOU** 5 p.m. BSW	**12 HOU** 4:15 p.m. Fox
13 HOU 11 a.m. BSW	**14 TEX** 5 p.m. BSW	**15 TEX** 5 p.m. BSW	**16 TEX** 5 p.m. BSW	**17**	**18 TB** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**19 TB** 6 p.m. BSW
20 TB 1 p.m. BSW	**21 CIN** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**22 CIN** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**23 CIN** 1 p.m. BSW	**24**	**25 NYM** 4 p.m. BSW	**26 NYM** 4 p.m. BSW
27 NYM 9 a.m. Peacock	**28 PHI** 3:30p.m. BSW	**29 PHI** 3:30 p.m. BSW	**30 PHI** 10 a.m. BSW	**31**		

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 OAK 6:30 p.m. BSW	**2 OAK** 1 p.m. BSW
3 OAK 1 p.m. BSW	**4 BAL** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**5 BAL** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**6 BAL** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**7 CLE** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**8 CLE** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**9 CLE** 6 p.m. BSW
10 CLE 1 p.m. BSW	**11 SEA** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**12 SEA** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**13 SEA** 1 p.m. BSW	**14**	**15 DET** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**16 DET** 6 p.m. BSW
17 DET 1 p.m. BSW	**18**	**19 TB** 3:30 p.m. BSW	**20 TB** 3:30 p.m. BSW	**21 TB** 10 a.m. BSW	**22 MIN** 5 p.m. BSW	**23 MIN** 11 a.m. BSW
24 MIN 11 a.m. BSW	**25 TEX** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**26 TEX** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**27 TEX** 6:30 p.m. BSW	**28**	**29 OAK** 6:30p.m. BSW	**30 OAK** 6 p.m. BSW
1 OAK Noon BSW						

LAKERS REPORT

James upgraded to doubtful vs. Bulls

By Dan Woike and Broderick Turner

The Lakers say **LeBron James** is doubtful to play Sunday against Chicago, news that in a vacuum wouldn't be considered progress.

Yet with James having been listed as "out" because of a right foot injury for every game the Lakers have played in the last month, the leap to "doubtful" is significant.

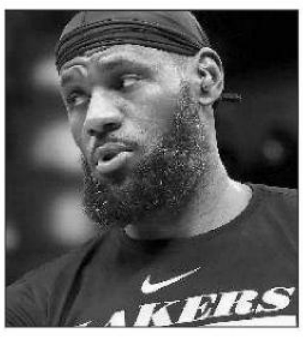
Earlier last week, the Lakers said James had begun a ramp-up with oncourt work, and though Saturday's classification signifies progress, it's still unlikely he plays against the Bulls.

The designation is good news for the Lakers, who have won three consecutive games and have reached .500 for the first time this season after beating Oklahoma City on Friday.

Following the game with the Bulls in Los Angeles, the Lakers travel to Chicago to begin a five-game trip. That trip ends at Crypto.com Arena with a road game against the Clippers before the Lakers end the season by hosting the Suns and the Jazz.

The Lakers entered Saturday tied with Minnesota for the seventh-best record in the West, 1½ games behind the sixth-place Golden State Warriors.

In addition to James, the Lakers listed guard **D'Angelo Russell** as questionable and center **Anthony Davis** as probable for Sunday.



MICHAEL WYKE Associated Press

LeBRON JAMES hasn't played this month because of a foot injury he suffered versus Dallas.

Davis powers win

Davis grabbed an offensive rebound and scored on a putback for his first points of the game Friday night against Oklahoma City. He then made a 10-foot jumper. His next two baskets were dunks.

Davis was feasting against the smaller Thunder early.

He had 15 points in the first quarter, his six-for-seven shooting a sign of his determination to help the Lakers to a 116-111 victory.

"They didn't really have no rim protection so I wanted to get a lot of stuff at the rim," Davis said after producing 37 points and 15 rebounds.

Davis had put his stamp on the game, having that "next-play mentality" Lakers coach **Darvin Ham** wanted to see.

"A [Davis] represented all of that today. Just demanding the ball, playing downhill, being aggressive to the rim, being active defensively, rebounding," Ham said. "He was huge."

Walker's big night

Davis sought out **Lonnie Walker IV** as soon as the win was secured, congratulating him for taking advantage of his moment.

Walker, who had started 32 games this season, came off the bench to give the Lakers a big lift with 20 points and four rebounds in nearly 24 minutes.

He was seven for 12 from the field, four for eight from three-point range.

"We don't win this game without him," Davis said. "He comes in, is playing well and I don't know, I've never been through it where I'm playing and then get benched or whatever, but I can only just imagine how it messes with the mind. To be mentally strong to go from a starter to move to the bench, don't play. Then come in and play big minutes, help the team win. You got to be a strong-minded individual for that."

NBA STANDINGS

Standings have been arranged to reflect how the teams will be determined for the playoffs. Teams are ranked 1-15 by record. The top six teams in each conference qualify for the playoffs. Teams seven through 10 will participate in a play-in tournament with the top-seeded play-in team meeting the lowest qualifying play-in team. The next-lowest qualifying team would play the second, etc. Head-to-head competition is the first of several tiebreakers, followed by conference record. (Western Conference divisions: S-Southwest; P-Pacific; N-Northwest; Eastern Conference divisions: A-Atlantic; C-Central; S-Southeast).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. y-Denver	50	24	.676		5-5	N1
2. y-Memphis	46	27	.630	3½	8-2	S1
3. Sacramento	45	29	.608	5	7-3	P1
4. Phoenix	39	35	.527	11	4-6	P2
5. CLIPPERS	39	36	.520	11½	6-4	P3
5. Golden State	39	36	.520	11½	5-5	P4
7. LAKERS	37	37	.500	13	7-3	P5
7. Minnesota	37	37	.500	13	5-5	N2
7. New Orleans	37	37	.500	13	6-4	S2
10. Oklahoma City	36	38	.486	14	6-4	N3
10. Dallas	36	38	.486	14	3-7	S3
12. Utah	35	39	.473	15	4-6	N4
13. Portland	32	41	.438	17½	3-7	N5
14. San Antonio	19	55	.257	31	3-7	S4
15. Houston	18	56	.243	32	3-7	S5

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. x-Milwaukee	53	21	.716		7-3	C1
2. x-Boston	51	23	.689	2	6-4	A1
3. x-Philadelphia	49	25	.662	4	7-3	A2
4. Cleveland	47	28	.627	6½	8-2	C2
5. New York	42	33	.560	11½	4-6	A3
6. Brooklyn	40	34	.541	13	4-6	A4
7. Miami	40	35	.533	13½	6-4	S1
8. Atlanta	37	37	.500	16	5-5	S2
9. Toronto	36	38	.486	17	5-5	A5
10. Chicago	35	38	.479	17½	6-4	C3
11. Washington	33	41	.446	20	3-7	S3
12. Indiana	33	42	.440	20½	4-6	C4
13. Orlando	31	43	.419	22	4-6	S4
14. Charlotte	24	51	.320	29½	4-6	S5
15. Detroit	16	58	.216	37	1-9	C5

x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

New Orleans 131, CLIPPERS 110	Atlanta 143, Indiana 130
Brooklyn 129, Miami 100	Denver 129, Milwaukee 106
Phoenix 125, Philadelphia 105	Sacramento 121, Utah 113

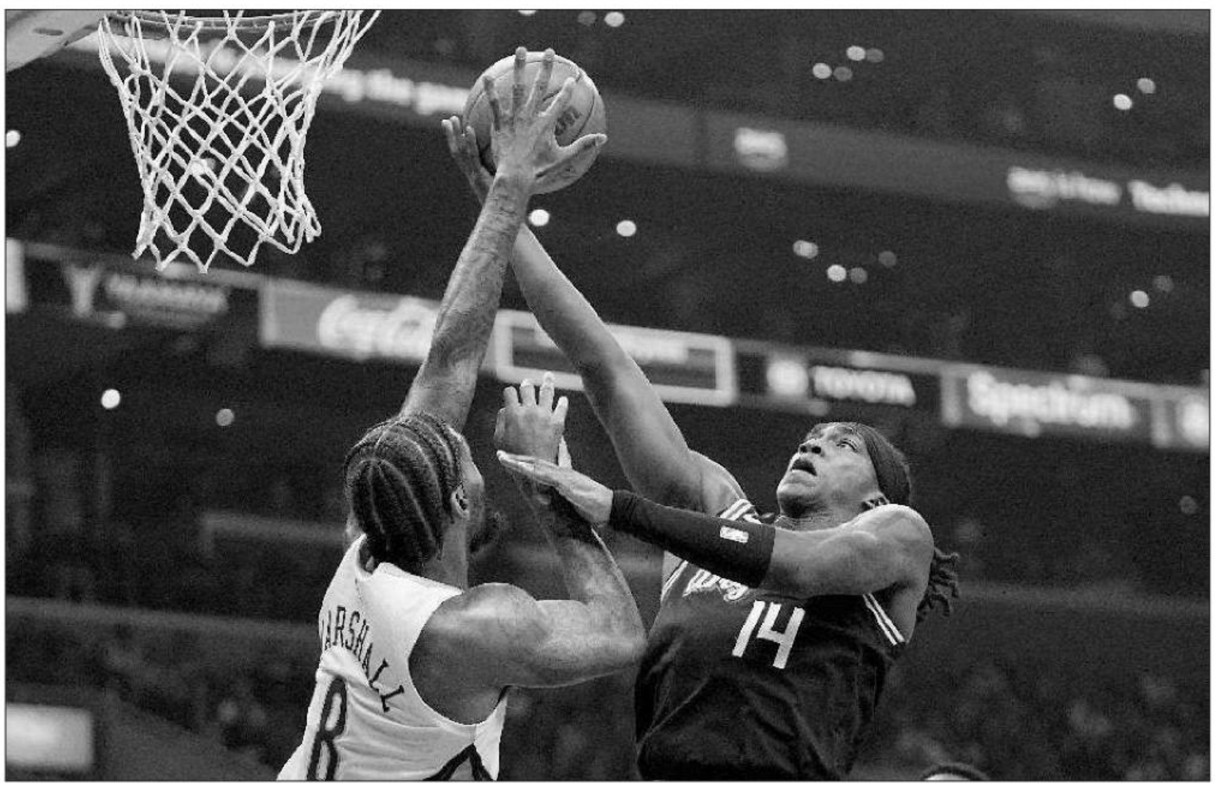
TODAY'S GAMES

Favorite	Line	Underdog	Time
at LAKERS	4½	Chicago	12:30 p.m.
Dallas	9	at Charlotte	10 a.m.
at Orlando	2	Brooklyn	3 p.m.
at Cleveland	13½	Houston	3 p.m.
at Toronto	6	Washington	3 p.m.
at Boston	16	San Antonio	3 p.m.
Memphis	2	at Atlanta	3 p.m.
at Portland	OFF	Oklahoma City	4 p.m.
at Golden State	6½	Minnesota	5:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Through Friday's games

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Embiid, PHI	60	665	612	2004	33.4
Doncic, DAL	59	652	477	1943	32.9
Lillard, POR	58	556	510	1866	32.2
Gilgeous-Alexander, OKC	63	655	607	1972	31.3
Antetokounmpo, MIL	58	647	464	1805	31.1
Tatum, BOS	69	678	499	2078	30.1
Mitchell, CLE	63	611	287	1731	27.5
Irving, DAL	54	536	225	1471	27.2
Young, ATL	66	558	507	1770	26.8
Morant, MEM	55	521	343	1471	26.7
Brown, BOS	62	622	257	1658	26.7
Markkanen, UTA	64	557	332	1643	25.7
Randle, NY	75	647	398	1907	25.4
Fox, SAC	66	621	314	1667	25.3
DeRozan, CHI	66	597	424	1657	25.1
LaVine, CHI	69	602	330	1727	25.0
Jokic, DEN	65	619	320	1614	24.8



MARK J. TERRILL Associated Press

TERANCE MANN of the Clippers goes up for a shot in the first half as New Orleans forward Naji Marshall jumps in an attempt to block it. Both teams are jockeying for playoff position in the West.

Slow start puts Clippers in bad spot

[**Clippers,** from D8]

team's G League reserves with eight minutes left.

Again and again, the Pelicans' best shooters found and made open shots while converting 21 of 34 three-pointattempts.

Again and again, the Clippers could never apply enough pressure to change that — an ominous sign for a critical week ahead as they face Western Conference opponents in three of their next four games as they jockey for playoff position.

"It's tough to dig yourself a hole and try to climb out every single night," Lue said. "We got to be better starting games. ... Tonight we just didn't have a lot of juice and a lot of pop. Nothing to get discouraged about, we just got to be a little better."

The Clippers are 39-36 and left the night in fifth place in the West after entering it in fourth. The loss could be felt for days. Not only is Leonard's timeline for a return unclear, but the loss clinched the head-to-head tiebreaker for New Orleans (37-37).

One game after making 13 of 15 shots in a victory against the Oklahoma City Thunder, Leonard missed all six of his three-point shots and made only four of 16 shots for 12 points. Russell Westbrook made four of 12 shots for 14 points. Reserve Bones Hyland scored a game-high 18.

Hours before tipoff, there was a sign of optimism when injured guard Norman Powell, sidelined since March 2, posted to Instagram a collection of photos of him in practice against various levels of contact.

But Powell isn't expected to be back by the next game, Monday against the Chicago Bulls. Paul George, of course, also won't be on the court anytime soon because of a sprained right knee. Now there is Leonard.

But if there were any opponent with zero sympathy for the Clippers' injury woes, it is New Orleans.

A hamstring has sidelined star forward Zion Williamson since Jan. 2. Guard Jose Alvarado hasn't played since Feb. 27 because of a tibia injury. And though Saturday was the 74th game for New Orleans, it was Brandon Ingram's 37th.

Most concerning for the Clippers, then, was that New Orleans did not need its full complement of players to take control Saturday.

They needed only two.

Ingram and Trey Murphy each scored 32 points. Murphy said he heard the Clippers' bench "chirping" at him before his first three, then added nine more.

Ingram scored three baskets during New Orleans' first five possessions, taking advantage of the Clippers' inability to keep up in transition. When they tried double-teaming Ingram, they lost track of Murphy for four first-quarter threes.

By the first quarter's end, the Pelicans made nine of their 11 three-pointers to lead by 11, and the combination of Ingram and Murphy's 26 points equaled the Clippers' total. It was the second consecutive game since the revamped starting lineup missing George created a first-quarter deficit instead of an advantage. But where reserves such as Hyland and Terance Mann infused energy and pace that jump-started Thursday's first-quarter comeback, the impact of their substitutions was immediately undercut by turnovers. The Clippers committed 20, which turned into 28 New Orleans points.

PELICANS 131, CLIPPERS 110

NEW ORLEANS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Ingram	33	12-22	5-5	0-4	13	3	32
Murphy III	37	11-14	0-0	0-2	1	3	32
Valanciunas	31	8-18	0-0	2-13	4	5	17
Jones	23	2-2	0-0	4-6	2	2	4
McCollum	35	8-15	2-2	2-8	8	2	21
Richardson	24	5-10	0-0	1-1	2	1	13
Marshall	22	3-7	1-2	0-3	2	1	8
Nance Jr.	13	1-4	0-0	2-5	3	3	2
Daniels	12	0-2	0-0	0-1	1	1	0
Hernangomez	2	1-2	0-0	1-2	0	0	2
Temple	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		51-96	8-9	12-45	36	21	131

Shooting: Field goals, 53.1%; free throws, 88.9%

Three-point goals: 21-34 (Murphy III 10-12, Ingram 3-5, McCollum 3-6, Richardson 3-6, Marshall 1-2, Valanciunas 1-2, Nance Jr. 0-1). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 3 (McCollum, Murphy III, Valanciunas). Turnovers: 15 (Richardson 5, McCollum 3, Jones 2, Marshall 2, Valanciunas 2, Ingram). Steals: 11 (Jones 2, McCollum 2, Murphy III 2, Daniels, Hernangomez, Nance Jr., Richardson, Valanciunas). Technical Fouls: Marshall, 1:47 second.

CLIPPERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Leonard	27	4-16	4-6	1-6	4	1	12
Morris Sr.	22	1-3	0-0	0-2	1	0	2
Zubac	17	6-7	1-2	0-5	2	3	13
Gordon	24	5-5	2-2	0-3	1	0	15
Westbrook	25	4-12	5-5	0-3	5	2	14
Hyland	23	7-12	1-1	0-2	7	2	18
Batum	20	4-6	1-1	0-1	1	0	13
Mann	19	1-2	2-2	0-1	2	3	5
Plumlee	18	2-2	1-2	1-5	3	0	5
Covington	16	4-5	0-0	0-2	1	0	11
Coffey	9	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Diabate	8	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	2	2
Moon	6	0-2	0-0	0-1	2	1	0
Totals		39-75	17-21	2-31	29	14	110

Shooting: Field goals, 52.0%; free throws, 81.0%

Three-point goals: 15-33 (Batum 4-6, Covington 3-3, Gordon 3-3, Hyland 3-8, Mann 1-1, Westbrook 1-5, Morris Sr. 0-1, Leonard 0-6). Team Rebounds: 3. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 6 (Plumlee 2, Zubac 2, Coffey, Covington). Turnovers: 19 (Hyland 5, Westbrook 4, Gordon 2, Leonard 2, Mann 2, Batum, Coffey, Covington, Plumlee). Steals: 9 (Covington 2, Leonard 2, Batum, Diabate, Gordon, Mann, Plumlee). Technical Fouls: None.

New Orleans	37	31	31	32—131
CLIPPERS	26	30	29	25—110

A—17,702. T—2:06.

Nets 129, Heat 100

BROOKLYN

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Finney-Smith	24	5-12	0-0	4-6	1	3	12
Johnson	25	9-13	0-0	1-3	4	4	23
Claxton	34	6-7	2-2	2-10	4	2	14
Bridges	38	7-19	10-11	0-3	7	1	27
Dinwiddie	35	4-11	5-6	1-7	9	3	15
O'Neale	26	3-8	0-0	2-3	2	0	8
Harris	14	2-5	0-0	0-2	1	0	6
Sumner	14	4-7	3-3	1-1	0	2	12
Sharpe	13	3-4	3-3	6-8	2	1	9
Watanabe	5	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	1	3
Smith	3	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	1	0
Duke Jr.	2	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Totals		44-89	23-25	17-45	30	18	129

Shooting: Field goals, 49.4%; free throws, 92.0%

Three-point goals: 18-40 (Johnson 5-8, Bridges 3-9, O'Neale 2-4, Dinwiddie 2-5, Finney-Smith 2-5, Harris 2-5, Sumner 1-2, Watanabe 1-2). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 6 (Claxton 3, O'Neale 2, Sharpe). Turnovers: 6 (Bridges 2, Dinwiddie 2, Duke Jr., Sumner). Steals: 6 (Bridges 2, Dinwiddie, Johnson, O'Neale, Sharpe). Technical Fouls: None.

MIAMI

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Butler	32	6-13	5-7	1-1	5	1	18
Love	18	2-4	0-0	1-3	2	2	5
Adebayo	34	8-14	0-0	4-7	2	3	16
Herro	33	9-16	2-2	0-2	3	0	23
Vincent	22	1-6	2-2	0-3	0	2	5
Strus	34	9-14	0-0	1-5	2	3	23
Martin	26	1-7	2-2	1-9	3	2	4
Lowry	22	1-3	0-0	0-1	4	4	3
Highsmith	8	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	2	0
D.Robinson	3	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Yurtseven	3	1-1	1-1	0-1	0	0	3
Totals		38-80	12-14	8-32	22	19	100

Shooting: Field goals, 47.5%; free throws, 85.7%

Three-point goals: 12-30 (Strus 5-9, Herro 3-8, Love 1-1, Butler 1-2, Lowry 1-2, Vincent 1-4, D.Robinson 0-1, Highsmith 0-1, Martin 0-2). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 4 (Lowry 2, Adebayo, Martin). Turnovers: 12 (Adebayo 4, Vincent 3, Lowry 2, Martin 2, Butler). Steals: 5 (Herro 2, Adebayo, Martin, Vincent). Technical Fouls: None.

Brooklyn	28	37	39	25—129
Miami	36	33	18	13—100

A—19,680. T—2:13.

Nuggets 129, Bucks 106

MILWAUKEE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
G.Antetknmpo	32	13-22	5-7	1-9	4	2	31
Middleton	28	6-14	0-0	0-8	5	0	13
Lopez	19	5-9	2-2	1-2	1	4	13
Allen	24	3-7	4-4	0-4	1	2	13
Holiday	29	3-11	2-2	0-2	7	2	9
Portis	24	4-11	2-2	1-6	0	2	11
Connaughton	23	2-5	0-0	0-4	2	3	5
Ingles	18	0-1	2-2	0-1	2	2	2
Carter	17	0-4	0-0	0-2	2	2	0
Matthews	11	0-1	2-2	0-0	1	0	2
Beauchamp	5	2-2	0-0	0-1	0	0	5
T.Antetokounmpo	3	1-1	0-0	1-1	1	0	2
Totals		39-88	19-21	4-40	26	19	106

Shooting: Field goals, 44.3%; free throws, 90.5%

Three-point goals: 9-36 (Allen 3-6, Beauchamp 1-1, Connaughton 1-4, Lopez 1-4, Portis 1-4, Holiday 1-5, Middleton 1-5, Ingles 0-1, Matthews 0-1, Carter 0-2, G.Antetokounmpo 0-3). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 2 (Allen, Lopez). Turnovers: 10 (G.Antetokounmpo 4, Connaughton 2, Middleton 2, Carter, Ingles). Steals: 7 (G.Antetokounmpo 4, Middleton 2, Holiday). Technical Fouls: Portis, 5:19 third.

DENVER

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Gordon	27	4-9	0-0	1-7	1	3	9
Porter Jr.	28	7-12	2-3	2-7	0	1	19
Jokic	31	10-20	10-11	1-6	11	2	31
Caldwell-Pope	28	4-8	3-5	2-8	1	0	11
Murray	32	9-19	3-4	0-6	9	3	26
Brown	28	4-6	1-3	0-5	1	2	11
J.Green	19	3-5	0-0	0-2	1	2	7
Braun	17	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	2	0
Nnaji	12	2-3	1-2	1-6	1	2	5
Bryant	3	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Cancar	3	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Smith	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	3	1	0
Watson	3	3-4	0-0	0-0	0	0	8
Totals		47-89	20-28	7-48	28	18	129

Shooting: Field goals, 52.8%; free throws, 71.4%

Three-point goals: 15-36 (Murray 5-10, Porter Jr. 3-6, Watson 2-2, Brown 2-3, J.Green 1-2, Gordon 1-5, Jokic 1-6, Braun 0-1, Nnaji 0-1). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 3 (Gordon, Murray, Nnaji). Turnovers: 10 (Jokic 3, Murray 3, Brown, Bryant, Caldwell-Pope, Gordon). Steals: 4 (Brown, Caldwell-Pope, Gordon, Jokic). Technical Fouls: coach Michael Malone, 2:11 first.

Milwaukee	38	28	19	21—106
Denver	37	26	34	32—129

A—19,919. T—2:13.

Kings 121, Jazz 113

UTAH

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Fontecchio	28	2-10	0-0	0-3	1	3	5
Olynyk	32	7-12	3-3	0-8	10	3	17
Kessler	33	14-16	3-6	4-11	2	4	31
Agbaji	36	8-15	1-2	1-3	4	0	20
Horton-Tucker	28	3-10	2-2	0-2	4	1	9
Dunn	25	5-11	1-3	0-4	5	1	12
Brantley	15	5-8	0-0	1-2	1	2	13
Toscno-Andesn	12	1-2	0-0	0-2	1	0	2
Azubuike	10	1-2	0-0	3-6	1	0	2
Juzang	9	1-5	0-0	1-2	0	0	2
Jones	7	0-0	0-0	1-2	1	0	0
Totals		47-91	10-16	11-45	30	14	113

Shooting: Field goals, 51.6%; free throws, 62.5%

Three-point goals: 9-28 (Brantley 3-5, Agbaji 3-7, Dunn 1-2, Horton-Tucker 1-3, Fontecchio 1-5, Toscano-Anderson 0-1, Olynyk 0-2, Juzang 0-3). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 7 (Agbaji 3, Brantley, Horton-Tucker, Jones, Kessler). Turnovers: 16 (Olynyk 4, Dunn 3, Fontecchio 2, Horton-Tucker 2, Agbaji, Azubuike, Brantley, Kessler, Toscano-Anderson). Steals: 3 (Jones, Kessler, Olynyk). Technical Fouls: None.

SACRAMENTO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Barnes	34	6-12	4-4	3-5	4	0	18
Murray	37	8-15	0-2	0-2	2	2	22
Sabonis	38	7-14	1-2	6-15	7	1	16
Huerter	37	10-21	5-6	2-7	4	1	27
Mitchell	29	5-11	1-1	0-0	6	3	11
Dellavedova	19	2-5	0-0	0-2	2	3	5
Lyles	14	2-5	4-4	1-2	1	1	10
Edwards	13	1-2	2-2	0-3	3	1	4
Monk	9	3-5	0-0	0-1	1	0	8
Holmes	3	0-3	0-0	1-1	0	1	0
Metu	2	0-2	0-0	1-4	0	0	0
Totals		44-95	17-21	14-42	30	13	121

Shooting: Field goals, 46.3%; free throws, 81.0%

Three-point goals: 16-43 (Murray 6-12, Barnes 2-3, Monk 2-3, Lyles 2-5, Huerter 2-9, Sabonis 1-1, Dellavedova 1-3, Metu 0-1, Mitchell 0-6). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 1 (Monk). Turnovers: 8 (Barnes 2, Monk 2, Sabonis 2, Edwards, Huerter). Steals: 11 (Mitchell 4, Huerter 3, Dellavedova, Edwards, Monk, Murray). Technical Fouls: Monk, 11:10 fourth.

Utah	26	35	17	35—113
Sacramento	32	23	35	31—121

A—18,151. T—2:07.

Suns 128, 76ers 105

PHILADELPHIA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Harris	34	4-12	2-2	0-2	3	0	13
Tucker	28	2-2	0-0	2-4	0	3	5
Embiid	32	8-19	11-13	2-10	4	1	28
Maxey	35	14-19	2-3	0-7	3	1	37
Melton	23	2-6	0-0	0-2	3	3	5
Milton	24	2-9	3-3	2-2	6	1	7
Niang	23	1-4	2-2	0-3	2	2	4
McDaniels	13	0-3	0-0	0-1	0	2	0
Dedmon	9	0-1	0-0	1-2	0	2	0
Reed	6	0-0	2-2	1-2	0	1	2
Korkmaz	4	1-1	2-2	0-1	0	0	4
Springer	4	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		34-78	24-27	8-36	21	16	105

Shooting: Field goals, 43.6%; free throws, 88.9%

Three-point goals: 13-31 (Maxey 7-11, Harris 3-6, Tucker 1-1, Melton 1-3, Embiid 1-4, Dedmon 0-1, Milton 0-1, McDaniels 0-2, Niang 0-2). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 7 (Dedmon 2, Embiid 2, McDaniels, Milton, Tucker). Turnovers: 12 (Embiid 3, Maxey 3, Milton 2, Dedmon, McDaniels, Melton, Niang). Steals: 3 (Maxey, Melton, Springer). Technical Fouls: None.

PHOENIX

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Craig	18	2-5	0-0	1-3	1	0	6
Okogie	24	2-9	1-2	1-1	5	2	7
Biyombo	29	8-12	1-2	8-13	2	5	17
Booker	31	9-18	9-9	0-3	5	2	32
Paul	25	4-7	3-3	1-5	8	2	13
Warren	26	7-12	0-0	1-8	1	0	16
Ross	22	6-12	0-0	0-7	4	3	15
Payne	22	6-9	0-0	0-2	7	2	14
Landale	13	1-2	0-1	1-2	1	2	2
Shamet	13	0-4	0-0	0-0	1	3	0
Wainright	9	2-3	2-2	0-1	0	1	6
Bazley	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Totals		47-93	16-19	13-45	36	22	128

Shooting: Field goals, 50.5%; free throws, 84.2%

Three-point goals: 15-32 (Ross 3-8, Payne 2-2, Craig 2-3, Paul 2-3, Booker 2-4, Okogie 2-4, Warren 2-4, Wainright 0-1, Shamet 0-3). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 9 (Biyombo 5, Booker, Craig, Landale, Warren). Turnovers: 7 (Booker 4, Bazley, Landale, Paul). Steals: 4 (Shamet 2, Paul, Warren). Technical Fouls: Suns, 2:02 second.

Philadelphia	24	29	30	22—105
Phoenix	26	32	31	36—128

A—17,071. T—2:12.

Hawks 143, Pacers 130

INDIANA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Mathurin	24	2-4	0-0	1-2	1	0	4
Nesmith	22	5-10	0-0	1-3	2	1	11
Jackson	23	7-10	0-0	2-5	1	5	14
Haliburton	32	7-13	3-3	1-1	13	1	19
Nembhard	27	5-8	0-0	0-2	4	2	12
Nwora	33	12-17	5-5	1-6	1	2	33
Hield	28	5-16	2-2	1-4	5	4	16
Smith	24	4-9	2-2	3-7	2	2	11
McConnell	19	5-7	0-0	0-2	3	1	10
Duarte	5	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Totals		52-96	12-12	10-32	33	18	130

Shooting: Field goals, 54.2%; free throws, 0.0%

Three-point goals: 14-37 (Nwora 4-7, Hield 4-12, Nembhard 2-4, Haliburton 2-5, Smith 1-2, Nesmith 1-3, Duarte 0-1, Mathurin 0-1, Jackson 0-2). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 7 (Hield 2, Haliburton, Nembhard, Nesmith, Nwora, Smith). Turnovers: 17 (McConnell 4, Nembhard 3, Smith 3, Nesmith 2, Nwora 2, Duarte, Haliburton, Mathurin). Steals: 7 (Jackson 3, Duarte, Haliburton, Mathurin, Smith). Technical Fouls: None.

ATLANTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Bogdanovic	31	4-8	0-0	1-4	1	2	9
Collins	31	9-12	1-2	0-2	3	3	21
Capela	30	5-5	7-8	5-17	2	0	17
Murray	33	8-20	4-4	0-2	12	1	20
Young	20	6-11	2-2	1-3	5	1	14
Bey	24	7-16	1-1	2-6	1	1	18
Griffin	23	4-9	0-0	2-2	3	1	11
Okongwu	17	3-5	6-6	4-6	3	2	12
Mathews	14	5-6	0-0	0-0	1	2	14
Holiday	11	2-4	1-2	0-0	2	1	7
Hunter	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		53-96	22-25	15-42	33	14	143

Shooting: Field goals, 55.2%; free throws, 88.0%

Three-point goals: 15-30 (Mathews 4-5, Griffin 3-6, Bey 3-7, Holiday 2-3, Collins 2-4, Bogdanovic 1-2, Young 0-1, Murray 0-2). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 8 (Collins 2, Griffin 2, Capela, Holiday, Murray, Okongwu). Turnovers: 11 (Young 3, Capela 2, Bogdanovic, Griffin, Holiday, Mathews, Murray, Okongwu). Steals: 10 (Okongwu 3, Murray 2, Bogdanovic, Collins, Holiday, Mathews, Young). Technical Fouls: Young, 7:25 third.

Indiana	35	39	24	32—130
Atlanta	39	33	33	38—143

A—17,699. T—2:07.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Estrada unifies titles by decision

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Seniesa Estrada defeated **Tina Rupprecht** by unanimous decision in a minimumweight title unification bout Saturday in Fresno to improve to 24-0.

"This means everything to me," Estrada said after all three judges scored the fight 100-90.

Estrada dominated the bout from the beginning, landing combinations to the head and body as Rupprecht, who fell to 12-1-1, tried to counter.

Estrada, who began training at 8 years old in a gym in East L.A., never let up despite Rupprecht connecting with some right hooks to the head.

"First of all I want to thank God," Estrada said. "He's blessed me so much throughout my whole career. And like I said at the press conference, who would have thought a little girl from East L.A. would one day be unifying world titles?"

ETC.

Wagner heads back to Seattle

Former Rams linebacker **Bobby Wagner** is headed back to the Seattle Seahawks, the team announced.

The Associated Press reported it's a one-year contract, and NFL Network and ESPN reported the deal was worth up to $7 million.

Wagner spent the first 10 seasons of his career with the Seahawks after being selected in the second round of the 2012 draft by Seattle.

The Brooklyn Nets are not expecting guard **Ben Simmons** to play again this season, though no final decision will be made until the three-time All-Star meets with a back specialist, coach **Jacque Vaughn** said.

Coco Gauff lost 6-7 (8), 7-5, 6-2 to **Anastasia Potapova** in the third round of the Miami Open.

A.J. Allmendinger earned his 11th career NASCAR Xfinity series road course victory at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. ... **Zane Smith** led a race-high 16 laps en route to his second straight win at Circuit of the Americas in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series.

Right-hander **Luis Severino** has a low-grade lat strain, New York Yankees manager **Aaron Boone** said, putting the two-time All-Star at risk of starting the season on the injured list.

The San Jose Sharks signed defenseman **Henry Thrun** to a two-year contract after his final college season at Harvard ended.

Mexico announced its desire to host the Summer Olympics in 2036 or 2040 and says it already has most of the sports infrastructure required.

California defended its team title at the NCAA swimming and diving championship in Minneapolis.

Kingsbarns led wire to wire to win the $1-million Louisiana Derby by four lengths and earned 100 qualifying points for the Kentucky Derby.

Shoma Uno prevailed in a quad showdown in the free skate to become the first Japanese man to defend his title at the figure skating world championships in Saitama, Japan.

TENNIS RESULTS

$8.8-MILLION MIAMI OPEN
At Miami Gardens, Fla.
Surface: Hard-outdoor

MEN'S SINGLES (second round, results included)—Stefanos Tsitsipas (2), Greece, d. Richard Gasquet, France, walkover; Francisco Cerundolo (25), Argentina, d. Aleksandar Kovacevic, 6-4, 6-4; Mackenzie McDonald, d. Matteo Berrettini (19), Italy, 7-6 (8), 7-6 (5); Quentin Halys, France, d. Alex de Minaur (15), Australia, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (3), 7-6 (8); F. Auger-Aliassime (5), Canada, d . T. Monteiro, Brazil, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (8); Daniil Medvedev (4), Russia, d. Roberto Baena, Spain, 6-1, 6-2.

WOMEN'S SINGLES (third round)—Anastasia Potapova (27), Russia, d. Coco Gauff (6), 6-7 (8), 7-5, 6-2; Jessica Pegula (3), d. Danielle Collins (30), 6-1, 7-6 (0).

NHL STANDINGS

Sixteen teams qualify for the Stanley Cup playoffs. The format is a set bracket that is largely division-based with wild cards. The top three teams in each division will make up the first 12 teams in the playoffs. The remaining four spots will be filled by the next two highest-placed finishers in each conference, based on regular-season record, and regardless of division.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	46	21	6	98	242	205
KINGS	42	20	10	94	251	230
Edmonton	41	23	9	91	286	247
Seattle	40	24	8	88	253	231
Calgary	33	26	15	81	238	232
Vancouver	33	34	5	71	247	268
DUCKS	23	40	10	56	189	297
San Jose	19	39	15	53	209	286
Central	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Minnesota	42	22	9	93	219	198
Dallas	39	20	14	92	251	204
Colorado	42	23	6	90	236	197
Winnipeg	41	30	3	85	222	209
Nashville	36	27	8	80	202	213
St. Louis	33	33	6	72	230	261
Arizona	27	34	12	66	204	253
Chicago	24	42	6	54	177	258

Note: Overtime or shootout losses worth one point.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Metropolitan	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
x-Carolina	47	16	8	102	238	184
x-New Jersey	46	19	8	100	256	201
NY Rangers	43	20	10	96	247	198
NY Islanders	37	28	9	83	219	205
Pittsburgh	36	27	10	82	235	236
Washington	34	32	8	76	236	231
Philadelphia	28	32	12	68	195	236
Columbus	23	42	7	53	196	285
Atlantic	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
y-Boston	56	11	5	117	271	154
Toronto	43	20	9	95	248	201
Tampa Bay	42	26	6	90	253	230
Florida	36	30	7	79	255	251
Buffalo	35	31	6	76	258	267
Ottawa	35	33	5	75	231	238
Detroit	31	32	9	71	209	238
Montreal	29	38	6	64	211	270

x-clinched playoff berth; y-division

RESULTS

AT KINGS 4 WINNIPEG 1	Viktor Arvidsson had two goals and Joonas Korpisalo stopped 25 shots for the Kings, 9-0-2 in their last 11.
ST. LOUIS 6 AT DUCKS 3	Ducks rookie Nikita Nesterenko scored his first NHL goal but Anaheim was routed at home in a fourth straight loss.
AT BOSTON 2 TAMPA BAY 1	Garnet Hathaway scored the tiebreaking goal and the Bruins clinched the Atlantic Division with their 56th win.
AT PHILADELPHIA 3 DETROIT 0	Carter Hart made 29 saves and helped the Flyers kill seven Red Wings power plays for a third consecutive win.
AT CALGARY 5 SAN JOSE 3	The Flames kept their playoff aspirations alive behind Tyler Toffoli's two goals and Jacob Markstrom's 28 saves.
NY RANGERS 4 AT FLORIDA 3	Patrick Kane scored his 20th goal and fourth with New York early in the third period as the Rangers rallied to win.
AT MINNESOTA 3 CHICAGO 1	Ryan Hartman scored the game-winner with 1:11 left to lift the Wild, which leads the NHL in points since Feb. 17.
BUFFALO 2 AT N.Y. ISLANDERS 0	Eric Comrie stopped 27 shots for his second NHL shutout as the Sabres won their second consecutive game.
AT CAROLINA 5 TORONTO 3	Sebastian Aho's team-leading 32nd goal won it for the Hurricanes after the Maple Leafs' Auston Matthews tied it.
VANCOUVER 3 AT DALLAS 1	The Canucks swept the three-game season series with the Stars on Brock Boeser's go-ahead goal in the second.
AT MONTREAL 8 COLUMBUS 2	Rafael Harvey-Pinard recorded his first career hat trick and Nick Suzuki added four points in the Canadiens' rout.
AT NEW JERSEY 5 OTTAWA 3	The Devils clinched a playoff berth as Jack Hughes had a goal and an assist and Mackenzie Blackwood 25 saves.
AT PITTSBURGH 4 WASHINGTON 3	Evgeni Malkin beat Darcy Kuemper on a breakaway with 1:20 left as the Penguins withstood a late Capitals rally.
SEATTLE 7 AT NASHVILLE 2	Eeli Tolvanen scored twice against a Predators team that waived him last year. Philipp Grubauer got a 14-save win.
VEGAS 4 AT EDMONTON 3 (OT)	Nicolas Roy put in his own rebound in the crease in overtime as the Knights swept a three-game Canada trip.

TODAY'S GAMES

St. Louis at KINGS, 7:30 p.m.	Colorado at Arizona, noon
Boston at Carolina, 2 p.m.	Toronto at Nashville, 3 p.m.
Vancouver at Chicago, 3 p.m.	

MONDAY'S GAMES

Colorado at DUCKS, 7 p.m.	Florida at Ottawa, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Buffalo, 4 p.m.	New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 4:30 p.m.
Seattle at Minnesota, 5 p.m.	Edmonton at Arizona, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY'S GAMES

KINGS at Calgary, 6 p.m.	Columbus at N.Y. Rangers, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.	Nashville at Boston, 4 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 4 p.m.	Tampa Bay at Carolina, 4 p.m.
Vancouver at St. Louis, 5 p.m.	Dallas at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Vegas, 7 p.m.	Winnipeg at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.

Marcio Jose Sanchez Associated Press

DREW DOUGHTY celebrates after scoring in the third period of the Kings' 4-1 win. Doughty, who added an assist, has scored in four of the last five games.

Kings tie team mark with point in 11th straight game

Arvidsson scores two goals to fuel surging Los Angeles, which is 9-0-2 during streak.

KINGS 4
WINNIPEG 1

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Todd McLellan isn't getting too excited about the Kings tying the franchise mark for the longest point streak in franchise history.

The fourth-year coach is getting excited about his team playing stout defense.

Not only did the Kings pick up a point in their 11th consecutive game Saturday afternoon with a 4-1 victory over the Winnipeg Jets, but it also extended their streak of giving up two or fewer goals in regulation to 10 games.

"That is something that we can hang our hats on and that we're pleased about," McLellan said. "We feel like we got to protect the goaltenders and help them out. ... That we will acknowledge and keep preaching, for sure."

Viktor Arvidsson had two goals and Drew Doughty had a goal and an assist for the Kings, who are 9-0-2 during their streak. The last time the Kings had an 11-game point streak was the 2013-14 season, when they won their second Stanley Cup championship.

Coincidentally, the current streak started with a 6-5 shootout win over the Jets on Feb. 28.

"I think that for the majority of these games we've won, we've kind of outplayed the other team for almost 60 minutes, and that's an important thing to be able to do, to take into the playoffs," said Doughty, who has scored in four of the last five games.

Alex Iafallo also scored for the Kings and Joonas Korpisalo stopped 25 shots.

Arvidsson — who has 22 goals this season — has four in the last four games.

His first goal came 82 seconds into the game. Trevor Moore won the faceoff in the offensive zone and made a backhand pass to Arvidsson, who snapped it into the net from the back of the left faceoff circle.

Arvidsson added an empty-net goal late in the third period. Phillip Danault picked up his 300th career point and 200th assist in the win.

KINGS 4, JETS 1

Winnipeg	0	1	0	– 1
KINGS	1	1	2	– 4

FIRST PERIOD—1. KINGS, Arvidsson 21 (Moore), 1:22. **Penalties**—Pionk, WPG (Roughing), 3:52; Moore, KINGS (Tripping), 11:02; Iafallo, KINGS (Roughing), 18:53; Dillon, WPG (Roughing), 18:53.

SECOND PERIOD—2. KINGS, Iafallo 11 (Danault, Walker), 5:28 (pp). 3. Winnipeg, Dubois 25 (Pionk, Connor), 18:37 (pp). **Penalties**—Wheeler, WPG (Tripping), 3:41; Gavrikov, KINGS (Cross Checking), 7:08; KINGS bench, served by MacEwen (Match Penalty), 14:10.

THIRD PERIOD—4. KINGS, Doughty 7 (Kopitar, Kempe), 0:27. 5. KINGS, Arvidsson 22 (Doughty, Anderson), 18:24 (en). **Penalties**—Edler, KINGS (Tripping), 15:29; Byfield, KINGS (High Sticking), 19:48.

SHOTS ON GOAL—Winnipeg 8-13-5—26. KINGS 14-9-6—29. Power-play conversions—Winnipeg 1 of 6;KINGS 1 of 2. Goalies—Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 32-22-2 (28 shots-25 saves). KINGS , Korpisalo 14-11-4 (26-25). T—2:22.

Ducks rookie gets his first goal

ST. LOUIS 6
DUCKS 3

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brayden Schenn and Kasperi Kapanen had two goals and an assist apiece in the St. Louis Blues' 6-3 victory over the Ducks on Saturday at Honda Center.

Jakub Vrana and Sammy Blais also scored in a three-goal first period, and Jordan Binnington made 22 saves in St. Louis' fourth win in five games.

Nikita Nesterenko scored his first NHL goal and John Gibson stopped 30 shots for the Ducks, who have lost four straight. Troy Terry and Ryan Strome also scored as lottery-bound Anaheim dropped to 1-5-1 on its eight-game homestand.

"For whatever reason, we wanted to get into a track meet," Ducks coach Dallas Eakins said. "And we're just not built to outscore our mistakes. ... We could have had much more [offensive] zone time, much more chances if we would have been more responsible."

Nesterenko, the Ducks' 21-year-old rookie, converted a short-angled shot off a pass from Mason McTavish just 4:05 into the first period.

Terry, a two-time All-Star, missed the third period for undisclosed personal reasons. He scored his 21st goal just 1:46 after the opening faceoff on a power play.

BLUES 6, DUCKS 3

St. Louis	3	2	1	– 6
DUCKS	2	0	1	– 3

FIRST PERIOD: 1. DUCKS, Terry 21 (Silfverberg, Shattenkirk), 1:46 (pp). 2. StL, Vrana 7 (Schenn, Faulk), 2:01. 3. DUCKS, Nesterenko 1 (McTavish, Terry), 4:05. 4. StL, Blais 8 (Parayko, Kapanen), 15:14. 5. StL, Schenn 20 (Faulk), 15:33. **Penalties**—Blais, STL (Interference), 1:26. Comtois, DUCKS (Interference), 10:21. Kyrou, STL (Hooking), 10:53.

SECOND PERIOD: 6. StL, Schenn 21 (Vrana, Parayko), 1:02. 7. StL, Kapanen 12 (Blais, Krug), 1:31. **Penalties**—Schenn, STL (High Sticking), 7:53. Vrana, STL (Slashing), 18:44. Jones, DUCKS (Holding), 19:24.

THIRD PERIOD: 8. StL, Kapanen 13 (Leddy, Parayko), 0:15. 9. DUCKS, Strome 14 (Zegras, Jones), 5:39. **Penalties**—Leason, ANA (Tripping), 11:44. Fowler, DUCKS (Delay of Game), 14:00. Blais, STL (Slashing), 16:37.

SHOTS ON GOAL: StL 17-12-7—36. DUCKS 11-7-7—25. Power-play conversions—StL 0 of 4. DUCKS 1 of 5.

GOALIES: StL, Binnington 23-24-5 (25 shots-22 saves). DUCKS, Gibson 14-28-8 (36-30). Att—15,237 (17,174). T—2:29. .

Ferrera kick-starts mission to benefit women

[**Ferrera,** from D8]
the club even more meaningful.

"Everything from delivering meals to LAUSD kids and their families to donating sports bras to young women so they have the equipment they need to play in sports, it's truly so profound and fulfilling for me to get to be a founding investor of this organization," she said.

The club has pledged to donate 10% of its sponsorship earnings to programs dedicated to equity, education and essentials such as food security, redirecting more than $4.5 million into the community so far. Not coincidentally, that has helped attract a number of Hollywood A-listers and activists such as Uzo Aduba, Jessica Chastain, Jennifer Garner and Eva Longoria to the team's investment group, which numbers more than 100.

"It's always been there. But now more and more people who are thought leaders in their own right, in their own community are stepping up and putting money behind it," Andrew Dolich, a former team executive in multiple leagues who now runs a sports consultancy in Los Altos, Calif., said of the growing desire of club owners to use their sports to give back. "You know, it's great to just say something. But it's much more important to go 'here's the entity that we have.' And these teams, they also become leaders in local philanthropy, education."

Angel City's fans are certainly supporting the mission. During its first season, the team led the NWSL in attendance, averaging 19,105 fans per game and selling out four times. But injuries that limited standout defender Sarah Gorden and World Cup champions Christen Press and Sydney Leroux to 10 starts combined hobbled the team, which finished in the bottom half of the 12-team table, missing the playoffs by five points.

Gorden has recovered from her ACL injury and is expected to start Sunday, but there is no timetable for the return of Leroux (ankle) or Press (ACL).

Their absences guarantee playing time for teenage sensation Alyssa Thompson , a senior at Harvard Westlake School with sprinter's speed and a knack for scoring goals.

Keeping everyone healthy this season will be key to the team's success. A lack of depth wore down Angel City last year, with the team conceding twice as many goals as it scored in the second half of games while losing four of its last five to finish eighth. Thompson is the biggest offseason acquisition, although coach Freya Coombe said the return of Gorden will be like adding another player.

Meanwhile, a capable midfield of fan favorite Jun Endo, Dani Weatherholt and Savannah McCaskill, last season's leading scorer with seven goals, returns intact; the defense will be anchored by Gorden, captain Ali Riley and center back Megan Reid, who didn't miss a minute last season.

DiDi Haracic, who was third in the league in saves in her first season as a starter, is back in goal.

"There has been some turnover and some change. But what's great is going into a second season just having a foundation and a core," Coombe continued. "We can build upon our core principles."

Angel City players to watch

Alyssa Thompson: Angel City paid a heavy price, surrendering two top draft picks and $450,000 to move up in January's NWSL draft and select Thompson, an 18-year-old senior at Harvard Westlake. That may prove to be a bargain. Thompson's sprinter speed, dribbling ability and soccer IQ have led general manager Angela Hucles Mangano to dub her a "generational talent."

Christen Press/Sydney Leroux: Both players, teammates on the World Cup-winning national team in 2015, will begin the year on the sidelines while rehabbing injuries that cut short their 2022 seasons. Press, 34, has reportedly undergone three surgeries on her right knee and isn't expected back anytime soon. Leroux, 32, who injured an ankle shortly after being acquired from Orlando as Press' replacement, is closer to returning though no date has been set. Angel City averaged just a goal a game last season so getting both women healthy will provide a boost to the team's attack and its depth.

DiDi Haracic: The Bosnian international missed one regular-season start last season, her first as a starter, and was rewarded with a contract extension that could keep her in L.A. through 2025. She was also named the team's most valuable player and the supporters' player of the year.

Savannah McCaskill: With Press then Leroux sidelined by injury, McCaskill became the focus of the offense, scoring a team-best and career-high seven goals and assisting on two others.

Jun Endo: The colorfully coiffed Endo has a relentless work rate and unselfishness that made her a fan favorite last season, when she started all 22 NWSL games.

— Kevin Baxter

Finish feels familiar for Galaxy

GALAXY 0
PORTLAND 0

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Galaxy remained winless this season after a 0-0 draw against the Portland Timbers on Saturday as the team tied for the third consecutive game.

The Galaxy were still without Javier "Chicharito" Hernandez, who has a lingering hamstring injury, and Douglas Costa, who is nursing a calf injury.

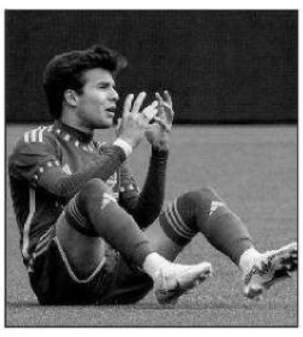
Galaxy coach Greg Vanney says he feels confident that the results will come once the team gets some of that firepower back.

"I'm not overly concerned about it because I know what we're capable of and I know where we will be once we fill out the roster," Vanney said. "I was pleased with the fact that we really controlled the majority of the game."

Preston Judd made his first MLS start for the Galaxy and nearly scored in the 14th minute, but his shot caromed off the post. Judd has played primarily with the Galaxy II team for the last two seasons.

Memo Rodriguez had another attempt for the Galaxy go off the post in the 57th minute. Goalkeeper Jonathan Klinsmann pounced on a shot from Portland's Jaroslaw Niezgoda in the 89th minute.

"Really proud of all the guys for the fight we had today. It was a great team effort," Klinsmann said. "I feel like we should have come away with three points."



Dantey Buitureida Sipa/AP

RIQUI PUIG of the Galaxy reacts after his team finished off its third consecutive tie.

GALAXY 0, TIMBERS 0

GALAXY	0	0	– 0
Portland	0	0	– 0

FIRST HALF—Scoring: None.

SECOND HALF—Scoring: None.

GOALIES—Galaxy, Jonathan Klinsmann, Aaron Cervantes; Portland, David Matthew Bingham, Hunter Sulte.

Yellow cards—Fogaca, Portland, 38th; Puig, Galaxy, half time; Calegari, Galaxy, 48th; Bonilla, Portland, 55th; Boyd, Galaxy, 60th; Bravo, Portland, 66th; Rodriguez, Galaxy, 69th; Neal, Galaxy, 82nd.

Referee—Christopher Penso. Assistant referees—Jeremy Kieso, Jeffrey Greeson, Jorge Gonzalez. 4th official—Eric Tattersall.

A—24,077.

MLS STANDINGS

WEST	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis City SC	5	0	0	15	15	4
Seattle	3	1	1	10	10	2
LAFC	3	0	1	10	9	3
Minnesota United	2	0	2	8	5	3
FC Dallas	2	2	1	7	7	5
Austin FC	2	2	1	7	6	7
Houston	2	2	0	6	4	5
San Jose	2	2	0	6	4	6
Portland	1	3	1	4	5	10
Real Salt Lake	1	3	0	3	3	9
Vancouver	0	2	3	3	5	7
GALAXY	0	1	3	3	2	4
Sporting Kansas City	0	3	2	2	2	7
Colorado	0	3	2	2	2	8
EAST	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
New England	4	1	0	12	7	5
Cincinnati	3	0	2	11	7	4
Atlanta	3	1	1	10	12	9
Orlando City	2	1	2	8	5	4
Columbus	2	2	1	7	11	8
Nashville	2	2	1	7	4	2
New York City FC	2	2	1	7	5	6
Philadelphia	2	3	0	6	8	8
Inter Miami CF	2	3	0	6	6	6
New York	1	1	3	6	4	4
Toronto FC	1	1	2	5	6	5
Chicago	1	1	2	5	7	7
D.C. United	1	3	1	4	7	10
Charlotte FC	1	3	1	4	4	9
CF Montréal	1	3	0	3	3	7

Three points for win, one point for tie.

Saturday's results
GALAXY 0, Portland 0
LAFC 2, FC Dallas 1
New York 1, Charlotte FC 1
Columbus 6, Atlanta 1
New England 2, D.C. United 1
Chicago 3, Miami 2
Orlando City 2, Philadelphia 1
Colorado 1, Austin FC 1
Houston 1, New York City FC 0
Seattle 4, Sporting Kansas City 1
Vancouver 1, Minnesota 1
Cincinnati 1, Nashville 0
St. Louis City SC 4, Real Salt Lake 0

Bouanga's late goal boosts LAFC to win

LAFC 2, DALLAS 1

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Denis Bouanga scored in the 84th minute to rally LAFC to a 2-1 victory over FC Dallas on Saturday night at BMO Stadium.

Carlos Vela notched an assist on Bouanga's match-winner for defending champion LAFC (3-0-1), which picked up its fourth straight win in the series and improved to 4-0-1 all time at home against Dallas (2-2-1).

Timothy Tillman staked LAFC to an early lead with an unassisted goal in the third minute.

Nkosi Tafari scored the tying goal for Dallas in the 73rd minute. Sebastien Ibeagha and Jesús Jiménez had assists on the goal.

LAFC was coming off a 2-1 home loss to Costa Rica's Alajuelense in the second round of the CONCACAF Champions League round of 16. LAFC has never lost two straight at home in all competitions.

LAFC outshot Dallas 21-7 with a 6-3 advantage in shots on goal. John McCarthy finished with two saves for LAFC.

Maarten Paes had four saves for Dallas.

LAFC 2, FC DALLAS 1

LAFC	1	1	– 2
FC Dallas	0	1	– 1

FIRST HALF—1, Los Angeles FC, Tillmann, 2, 3rd minute.

SECOND HALF—2, FC Dallas, Tafari, 1 (Ibeagha), 73rd; 3, Los Angeles FC, Bouanga, 3, 84th.

GOALIES—FC Dallas, Maarten Paes, James Maurer; Los Angeles FC, John McCarthy, Eldin Jakupovic.

Yellow Cards—Murillo, Los Angeles FC, 37th; Quignon, FC Dallas, 41st; Ibeagha, FC Dallas, 53rd; Cerrillo, FC Dallas, 62nd; Tafari, FC Dallas, 65th; Hollingshead, Los Angeles FC, 69th.

Red Cards—Twumasi, FC Dallas, 35th.

Referee—Lukasz Szpala. Assistant Referees—Mike Rottersman, Eduardo Jeff, Jair Antonio Marrufo. 4th Official—Tim Ford.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Frank Franklin II Associated Press

ALIJAH MARTIN and Florida Atlantic managed to keep the ball out of Keyontae Johnson's hands as the Kansas State star fouled out with just nine points, and the ninth-seeded Owls reached their first Final Four.

MEN'S ROUNDUP

Gonzaga doesn't have a shot

Associated Press

Jordan Hawkins scored 20 points and Connecticut blew past its fourth straight NCAA tournament opponent, earning its first trip to the Final Four in nine years with an 82-54 blowout of Gonzaga on Saturday night in Las Vegas.

The Huskies (29-8) have felt right at home in their first extended March Madness run since winning the 2014 national championship, playing their best basketball of an up-and-down season. They controlled the usually efficient Zags at both ends in the West Region final, building a 23-point lead early in the second half.

"The Big East Conference is the best conference in the country, so we went through some struggles," coach Dan Hurley said. "But once we got out of that league and started playing nonconference teams again, we've been back to that team that looked like the best team in the country."

The Huskies men did what the women's team couldn't for once and are headed to Houston, where they'll play Texas or Miami.

The Zags (31-6) didn't have the same second-half magic they had in a last-second win over UCLA in the Elite Eight. The Huskies went on a late run to lead by seven at halftime, and the Zags fell apart after All-American Drew Timme went to the bench with his fourth foul early in the second half.

The Zags shot 33% from the field and two for 20 from three-point range. Julian Strawther, who hit the winning three against UCLA, was 0 for 6 from deep.

Florida Atlantic 79, Kansas State 76: Alijah Martin, Vlad Goldin and the No. 9 Owls became the lowest-seeded team to reach this Final Four as they withstood another huge game by the Wildcats' Markquis Nowell.

FAU (35-3), making just its second appearance in the tournament, won the East Region and will head to Houston to play the winner of Sunday's South Region final between San Diego State and Creighton.

In one of the most unpredictable tournaments ever — all four No. 1 seeds were out by the Elite Eight — the Owls from Conference USA typified the madness.

"I expect the prognosticators to pick us fifth in the Final Four," fifth-year coach Dusty May said.

The winningest team in Division I this season had never won an NCAA tournament game before ripping off four straight, all by single digits, to become the first No. 9 seed to reach the Final Four since 2013.

Nowell, the 5-foot-8 native New Yorker, was incredible again at Madison Square Garden, with 30 points, 12 assists and five steals. Keyontae Johnson, the Wildcats' leading scorer, fouled out with nine points.

Martin scored 17 points, including a huge three down the stretch, the 7-foot-1 Goldin had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and Michael Forrest made four clutch free throws in the final 20 seconds for the Owls.

MEN'S SCHEDULE

All times Pacific

SATURDAY'S ELITE EIGHT RESULTS
EAST REGIONAL
9 Florida Atlantic 79, 3 Kansas State 76

WEST REGIONAL
4 Connecticut 82, 3 Gonzaga 54

TODAY'S ELITE EIGHT GAMES
SOUTH REGIONAL
5 San Diego State (30-6) vs. 6 Creighton (24-12)…11:15 a.m.

MIDWEST REGIONAL
5 Miami (28-7) vs. 2 Texas (29-8)……………………2 p.m.

FLA. ATLANTIC 79, KANSAS ST. 76

FLORIDA ATLANTIC—Goldin 6-11 2-2 14, Boyd 1-4 1-3 4, Davis 5-12 3-4 13, Greenlee 4-7 4-5 16, Martin 6-11 2-2 17, Weatherspoon 2-3 2-2 7, Gaffney 0-2 0-0 0, Forrest 1-2 4-4 6, Rosado 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 26-54 18-22 79.

KANSAS STATE—K.Johnson 4-7 0-3 9, Tomlin 6-11 1-1 14, Carter 2-5 0-0 5, Nowell 8-21 9-10 30, Sills 4-8 0-1 9, N'Guessan 1-1 0-0 2, Massoud 1-3 2-3 5, Iyiola 1-1 0-0 2, Greene 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 27-58 12-18 76.

Halftime—FAU 42-38. Three-point goals—FAU 9-23 (Greenlee 4-6, Martin 3-7, Weatherspoon 1-1, Boyd 1-3, Forrest 0-1, Gaffney 0-1, Davis 0-4), Kansas St. 10-22 (Nowell 5-11, K.Johnson 1-1, Carter 1-2, Massoud 1-2, Tomlin 1-2, Sills 1-3, Greene 0-1). Fouled Out—Greenlee, K.Johnson, N'Guessan. Rebounds—FAU 41 (Goldin 13), Kansas St. 16 (Tomlin 6). Assists—FAU 17 (Davis 6), Kansas St. 14 (Nowell 12). Total Fouls—FAU 18, Kansas St. 21. A—19,680 (19,812).

CONNECTICUT 82, GONZAGA 54

CONNECTICUT—Karaban 5-9 0-0 12, Sanogo 3-11 4-4 10, Hawkins 6-15 2-3 20, Jackson 4-9 0-0 8, Newton 2-7 4-6 8, Alleyne 3-5 1-1 8, Calcaterra 3-7 0-0 8, Clingan 3-6 0-0 6, Diarra 0-0 0-0 0, S.Johnson 0-0 0-0 0, Hurley 0-2 0-0 0, Roumoglou 1-1 0-0 2, Springs 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 30-72 11-14 82.

GONZAGA Timme 5-14 2-4 12, Watson 3-4 0-4 6, Bolton 2-7 1-2 6, Hickman 0-5 0-0 0, Strawther 4-15 3-3 11, Smith 2-4 3-4 8, Gregg 2-5 2-3 6, Sallis 2-5 1-2 5, Harris 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 20-60 12-22 54.

Halftime—Connecticut 39-32. Three-point goals—Connecticut 11-31 (Hawkins 6-10, Calcaterra 2-5, Karaban 2-6, Alleyne 1-2, Sanogo 0-1, Hurley 0-2, Jackson 0-2, Newton 0-3), Gonzaga 2-20 (Smith 1-1, Bolton 1-3, Harris 0-1, Watson 0-1, Gregg 0-2, Sallis 0-2, Hickman 0-4, Strawther 0-6). Rebounds—Connecticut 45 (Sanogo 10), Gonzaga 36 (Timme 10). Assists—Connecticut 21 (Jackson 10), Gonzaga 13 (Hickman 5). Total Fouls—Connecticut 18, Gonzaga 12.

Veteran-heavy Aztecs on cusp of coach's goal

With seven seniors, San Diego State can fulfill Dutcher's quest of reaching Final Four.

By Michael Marot

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — San Diego State's recruiting pitch to Darrion Trammell certainly sounded intriguing.

Coach Brian Dutcher asked the former Seattle University guard to come to Southern California and play in a Final Four.

What Trammell found was a mature, talented group of players with two NCAA tournament appearances — a team that convinced him it was possible. Now, after matching his season high with 21 points in Friday's 71-64 win over No. 1 seed Alabama, Trammell and his teammates are one win away from fulfilling their ambitious goal.

"I felt like we were going to a make deep run, so yeah, I did believe it," Trammell said Saturday. "I felt as a team, we were the only people to believe that, but that's ultimately what matters is the confidence and the belief that we have in our own team."

The fifth-seeded Aztecs (30-6) don't look like many other teams.

In an era when one-and-dones and the ever-swirling transfer portal threaten to break up teams and keep rosters young, San Diego State has relied on size, strength and experience to keep advancing through March Madness, right into the South Region final against No. 6 Creighton.

Seven of its 12 players, including Trammell, are seniors. Five have played at only one school and everyone was sold on the same Final Four pledge. To Dutcher, the son of a former Big Ten coach who's in his 24th season at San Diego State and sixth as the head coach, it was more than a dream. It was a quest.

And now this veteran lineup, which endured everything from a canceled postseason to a tournament bubble to last March's excruciating 72-69 first-round overtime loss to Creighton, can earn a berth to Houston on Sunday.

Those who have followed the Aztecs — or listened to Dutcher — are not surprised.

"I think at Cal, we were really young and nobody really had any kind of leadership and experience winning, but I came into a program where I think a culture was already established," said Matt Bradley, a two-year starter who played his previous three seasons with the Golden Bears. "Aguek [Arop], he reminds me all the time what it takes to win games at San Diego State."

Together, these seniors have played in three straight NCAA tournaments, won three Mountain West regular-season titles and two conference tournaments, and made the deepest postseason run in school history.

Trammell is the playmaking guard who was an all-conference defender at Seattle. Adam Seiko is the thick, gritty guard who prides himself on being a fearless three-point shooter and a strong defender with 118 career wins.

Forwards Keshad Johnson, Jaedon LeDee and Arop provide the brawn and skill in the post, and at 6 foot 10 and 230 pounds, Nathan Mensah is second on the school's career blocks list (231). Bradley, the Mountain West tournament most valuable player, is one of the nation's most prolific active scorers with 2,294 points.

"Anybody who appreciates basketball understands how good San Diego State is," Creighton coach Greg McDermott said. "They play a brand of basketball that's built on toughness, built on intelligence. They don't take many bad shots and they're very physical when the ball goes up."

Marot writes for the Associated Press.

Bruins are out of their league in loss

Mic Smith Associated Press

BREA BEAL of South Carolina dribbles by UCLA's Charisma Osborne, who scored 14 points but had five turnovers in what could be her final game for Bruins.

[**UCLA,** from D8]

ty, she will have gone out with a bang. She scored 36 points in the second round against Oklahoma, a school record for the tournament, and averaged 18.1 points in seven postseason games, which included a run to the Pac-12 title game. With Osborne leading the way, the Bruins returned to the NCAA tournament after missing the cut last season.

"All of the vets, all of the seniors really set the tone in how this season would go, especially with how last season went," she said. "So I'm just super proud of everyone for the way they bought into the culture here and the way that everyone has just carried themselves and just put the team first."

South Carolina won its 41st consecutive game and remains on track for its third title in the last six tournaments. The Gamecocks outrebounded UCLA 24-14 in the first half, which included a 9-0 advantage on the offensive boards, and have held all three of their tournament opponents to 45 points or fewer.

When it comes to those foundational pieces, South Carolina might be one of the best teams ever, Close said.

Yet the Bruins still were confident entering the game despite a 73-64 loss in Columbia, S.C., in November. One of only five teams that the Gamecocks didn't beat by double digits this season, the Bruins thought they unlocked a successful formula by dictating the pace while playing aggressively.

Then on the biggest stage, the strategy was nowhere to be found.

"I am a big believer that when you get in those situations that you sink to the level of your training," Close said. "As the leader, I have to go back to how do I raise the level of our training so that when the most pressurized moments come, we have a chance to perform at a higher level? Ultimately I take responsibility for that, but that definitely caught me off guard because that isn't the characteristic of the team throughout the year."

With five freshmen in the rotation, the Bruins are expected to return to the tournament next year. UCLA earned its first Sweet 16 since 2019 after beginning the season unranked. It was the first significant NCAA tournament experience for every player, including Brown and Osborne, who had the tournament canceled as freshmen and were confined to a postseason bubble as sophomores.

Close credited the seniors, including Brynn Masikewich and Gina Conti, for setting the standard that allowed the Bruins to revitalize the program.

"This is always so hard," Close said. "It's because I love these seniors, because I love our team, and you just don't want the journey to end with them."

> 'That definitely caught me off guard because that isn't the characteristic of the team throughout the year.'
>
> — Coach Cori Close, on UCLA's struggles

SOUTH CAROLINA 59, UCLA 43

UCLA—Bessoir 2-8 0-0 6, Brown 1-1 0-0 2, Conti 2-10 1-1 5, Osborne 4-12 5-6 14, Rice 1-5 1-2 3, Iwuala 1-1 0-0 2, Jaquez 0-4 1-2 1, Masikewich 1-1 0-0 2, Sontag 1-3 0-0 2, Jones 2-6 2-2 6, Totals 15-51 10-13 43

SOUTH CAROLINA—Boston 3-7 2-2 8, Saxton 2-4 0-0 4, Beal 4-9 0-0 10, Cooke 2-10 2-4 6, Fletcher 1-4 1-1 3, Amihere 2-4 0-0 4, Kitts 0-0 0-0 0, Watkins 0-1 0-2 0, Cardoso 4-7 2-3 10, Cooper 0-3 0-0 0, Johnson 1-5 0-0 2, Thompson 0-1 0-0 0, Feagin 1-1 0-0 2, Hall 4-7 0-0 10, Totals 24-63 7-12 59

UCLA	**8**	**7**	**15**	**13—43**
South Carolina	**14**	**11**	**25**	**9—59**

Three-points goals—UCLA 3-18 (Bessoir 2-7, Conti 0-4, Osborne 1-5, Jones 0-2), South Carolina 4-16 (Beal 2-5, Cooke 0-3, Cooper 0-1, Johnson 0-3, Thompson 0-1, Hall 2-3). Assists—UCLA 10 (Conti 4), South Carolina 19 (Fletcher 5). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—UCLA 34 (Osborne 7), South Carolina 42 (Boston 14). Total Fouls—UCLA 16, South Carolina 11. Technical Fouls—None. A—12,879.

WOMEN'S ROUNDUP

Ohio State halts Connecticut streak

Associated Press

Connecticut's record streak of reaching 14 straight Final Fours ended when third-seeded Ohio State beat the No. 2-seeded Huskies 73-61 on Saturday in the Seattle Regional 3 semifinals.

Cotie McMahon scored 23 points and the Buckeyes (28-7) forced Connecticut (31-6) into 25 turnovers, ending the Huskies' season before the national semifinals for the first time since 2008. Connecticut hadn't been eliminated this early since 2006.

"The problem with streaks is the longer they go, you're closer to it ending than you are to the beginning of it," Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma said. "It's just a matter of time. I mean, it's not if it's going to happen. It's just a matter of time when it's going to happen. And it was going to happen sooner rather than later."

The Buckeyes ended their own Elite Eight drought. Ohio State hadn't made a regional final since 1993. The Buckeyes went on to lose in the title game that year.

"When I had the opportunity to come to Ohio State, this was certainly the goal and the vision to go farther than they have been going," said coach Kevin McGuff, who had never defeated Connecticut. "It's not easy to get here, obviously. But I'm really proud of our team and our program of how we've evolved to be able to get to this point."

Virginia Tech 73, Tennessee 64: Georgia Amoore scored a career-high 29 points and the top-seeded Hokies (30-4) advanced to the Elite Eight for the first time in school history by beating the Volunteers (25-12) in the Seattle Regional 3 semifinals.

Virginia Tech won its 14th straight game overall.

Amoore and the Hokies used a dominant stretch spanning the end of the second quarter and beginning of the third that built enough of a cushion to hold off Tennessee's late rally.

Maryland 76, Notre Dame 59: Diamond Miller scored 14 of her 18 points in the final two quarters to lead the second-seeded Terrapins (28-6) over the depleted Fighting Irish (27-6) in the Greenville Regional 1 semifinals and into the Elite Eight for the first time in eight years.

Shyanne Sellers also had 18 points for Maryland, which will play South Carolina on Monday for a Final Four berth.

WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

All times Pacific

FRIDAY'S SWEET 16 GAMES
SEATTLE REGIONAL 4
2 Iowa 87, 6 Colorado 77
5 Louisville 72, 8 Mississippi 62

GREENVILLE REGIONAL 2
9 Miami 70, 4 Villanova 65
3 Louisiana State 66, 2 Utah 63

SATURDAY'S SWEET 16 GAMES
GREENVILLE REGIONAL 1
2 Maryland 76, 3 Notre Dame 59
1 South Carolina 59, 4 UCLA 43

SEATTLE REGIONAL 3
3 Ohio State 73, 2 Connecticut 61
1 Virginia Tech 73, 4 Tennessee 64

TODAY'S ELITE EIGHT GAMES
GREENVILLE REGIONAL 2
3 Louisiana State (31-2) vs. 9 Miami (22-12)…………4 p.m.

SEATTLE REGIONAL 4
2 Iowa (29-6) vs. 5 Louisville (26-11)……………………6 p.m.

MONDAY'S ELITE EIGHT GAMES
GREENVILLE REGIONAL 1
1 South Carolina (35-0) vs. 2 Maryland (28-6)…………4 p.m.

SEATTLE REGIONAL 3
1 Virginia Tech (30-4) vs. 3 Ohio State (28-7) …………6 p.m.

LETTERS

UCLA's resolve earns praise

Do not let the capricious nature of the basketball gods detract from the heroic effort on display by the Mick Cronin-led Bruins vs. Gonzaga in the NCAA's Sweet 16 game. It was one for the ages. Resilience against adversity was on display with every possession.

This noble performance deserves to be placed alongside the finest in the legendary pantheon of Bruins basketball … Julian Strawther's 32-foot dagger notwithstanding.

Dave Sanderson
La Cañada Flintridge

::

As usual, Bill Plaschke resorts to hyperbole in his commentary on UCLA's performance against Gonzaga, writing: "A gleaming effort became a smoking wreckage filled with bricks, bad defense and regrets." While Mark Few made some positive halftime adjustments, Mick Cronin's superb game plan fell victim to the fatigue that was so evident in the Bruins players in the second half.

UCLA's true character was illustrated in grabbing a last-minute lead after being down by 10 points only two minutes earlier. Of course, for the third time, a long-range dagger decided a UCLA-Gonzaga contest.

Noel Johnson
Glendale

::

Bill Plaschke had one thing right about UCLA-Gonzaga, and that was that UCLA shot early and errantly in the second half. Plaschke gave a nod to the effect of injury on the team. No excuses, but the rotation was thinner and the main players were gassed. We surely will miss this cast of seniors and thanks for a great season and good fortunes to them all in their futures.

Scott W. Hamre
Cherry Valley

::

I remember when nobody could handle the UCLA full-court press. Now teams know how to prepare for it. Even so with 12.2 seconds left I'm yelling, "full-court press," make Gonzaga use precious seconds. But no. Instead they were allowed to bring the ball up as fast as possible to set up a play coach Few said they practice all the time.

Coach Cronin is the best thing that happened to the Bruins since coach Wooden. Please, coach, explain your 12-second strategy.

Congratulations to the Bruins on a great year.

Dave Simon
North Hollywood

::

Robert Gauthier Los Angeles Times

MANY FANS praised the Bruins for the grit and determination they displayed throughout the season.

Once again this NCAA classic basketball rivalry came down to the final seconds of an absolutely thrilling game. The UCLA players should not hang their heads as they had a great season, a Bruins team that played with grit, determination and heart, faced some adversity along the way. But, please, coach Cronin, if these two opponents should ever face off in a future tournament game and it comes down to a final shot by the opposition, make sure you triple-team any player who has the initials "JS."

Dennis Lifton
Cypress

True blue

It's easy to complain about sports teams and their upper management, which exploits its players. But let's give credit and a big thank-you to Dodgers management for its respectful handling of the tragic case of Andrew Toles and his mental illness. Once again, the Dodgers renewed his "contract," enabling him to maintain insurance and maybe find the right medication to stabilize his horrific disease. I wish for the day we might see Toles back on the field in Dodger blue.

Jeff Black
Los Angeles

That winning look

One look at Shohei Ohtani's face last week proves he has no desire to sign with the Angels as a free agent. He likes winning too much.

Doug Gould
Agoura Hills

::

I feel sorry for Mike Trout. The World Baseball Classic final might be as close to a world championship as he will ever get.

Paul Hunt
Sierra Madre

::

Realizing that the WBC was a tournament and not a season-long grind, it was nevertheless refreshing to see baseball played as it was meant to be, with all the passion and intensity the game requires. MLB could learn from this tournament that was a classic in all senses of the word.

Bill Waxman
Simi Valley

::

It's fantastic to see at least one of the two great Angels players (Ohtani/Trout) finally win a championship. But it is time for a correction to be made. The World Baseball Classic should logically be called the World Series as it is teams from around the world playing. Major League Baseball should now change the World Series to the Major League Baseball Championship.

Steve Shaevel
Woodland Hills

Another long season ahead for Rams

After the Rams finished 5-12, their offseason moves leave one scratching their head. No big signings, but lots of releases. They traded star cornerback Jalen Ramsey and let go of backup quarterback Baker Mayfield. The Rams have no strategy in place to win, unlike when Sean McVay was first named coach. Next season looks like it will be a long one, worse than the last and don't be surprised if McVay bails afterward.

Rich Fond
Sherman Oaks

Carrying the load

One of the most enduring sports memories of my childhood is of the Knicks' Willis Reed hobbling onto the court to beat my beloved Lakers in Game 7 of the 1970 NBA championship series. Fast-forward 53 years and it's likely that in the same situation Kawhi Leonard or Anthony Davis would sit out the game due to "load management."

Ron Yukelson
San Luis Obispo

Making the right call on umpire

What an incredible human interest story on Malachi Moore by Mike DiGiovanna regarding the trials and tribulations of becoming an MLB umpire. The article is heartbreaking, uplifting and should be required reading for parents of struggling children. Excellent!

Patrick Kelley
Los Angeles

Complaint Department

Your coverage of the Kings and hockey in general is a joke. Last Saturday night's sold-out home game against the Canucks was covered by someone named "Associated Press." Awful!

Howard Weinberg
Long Beach

::

Wow, when the UCLA men's basketball team wins, they get the front page. The women get Page 5.

The L.A. Times, why is it so sexist?

I suppose we should be thrilled the UCLA women were even covered.

Please explain why your publication does not respect women athletes.

Michelle Sauntry
Sherman Oaks

::

So Dylan Hernández now speaks for Major League Baseball in declaring that Shohei Ohtani should leave the Angels? I'm speaking for L.A. Times readers and demanding that Hernández be reassigned to covering and commenting on the weather. In that position his "influential" ideas will have the impact they deserve — zero.

Ray McKown
Torrance

::

During this whirlwind springtime of March Madness, with so many office pools, I have a suggestion: Let's start a pool to see who receives the largest number of negative letters submitted to the Times sports editor this year. Odds-on favorites are columnists Bill Plaschke and Dylan Hernández, and TV college basketball commentator Bill Walton.

Gene Meyer
Ventura

::

The Times welcomes expressions of all views. Letters should be brief and become the property of The Times. They may be edited and republished in any format. Each must include a valid mailing address and telephone number. Pseudonyms will not be used.

Email: sports@latimes.com

PRO CALENDAR

	SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30
DODGERS	ANGELS* 6 SNLA	at Angels* 6 SNLA	at Angels* 6 SNLA		ARIZONA 7 SNLA
ANGELS	at Dodgers* 6 BSSC	DODGERS* 6 Ch. 13	DODGERS* 6 BSSC		at Oakland 7 BSW
LAKERS	CHICAGO 12:30 SpecSN			at Chicago 5 SpecSN	
CLIPPERS		CHICAGO 7:30 BSSC		at Memphis 5 BSSC	
KINGS	ST. LOUIS 7:30 BSW		at Calgary 6 BSW		at Edmonton 6 BSSC
DUCKS		COLORADO 7 BSW			at Seattle 6 Hulu
GALAXY	SATURDAY VS. SEATTLE, 4:45, CHANNEL 11				
LAFC	SATURDAY AT COLORADO, 6:30, APPLE TV				
ANGEL CITY	GOTHAM FC 6 Paramount+				

Shade denotes home game. *Spring training in Arizona.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
AUTO RACING		
12:30 p.m.	NASCAR, Cup Series, EchoPark Automotive Grand Prix	**TV:** 11, FOXD
4 p.m.	NHRA, Arizona Nationals	**TV:** FS1
BASEBALL: SPRING EXHIBITIONS		
10 a.m.	Minnesota vs. Boston at Fort Myers	**TV:** MLB
1 p.m.	Seattle vs. San Diego at Peoria	**TV:** MLB
6 p.m.	Angels at Dodgers	**TV:** SNLA, BSSC **R:** 570, 830, 1020
BASKETBALL		
12:30 p.m.	Chicago at Lakers	**TV:** SpecSN **R:** 710, 1330
3 p.m.	Memphis at Atlanta	**TV:** NBA
5:30 p.m.	Minnesota at Golden State	**TV:** NBA
COLLEGE BASEBALL		
9 a.m.	Missouri at South Carolina	**TV:** SEC
10 a.m.	Texas A&M at Tennessee	**TV:** ESPN
Noon	Kentucky at Alabama	**TV:** SEC
4 p.m.	Arizona at Arizona State	**TV:** Pac-12
COLLEGE BASKETBALL: NCAA REGIONAL FINALS		
11 a.m.	Creighton vs. San Diego State	**TV:** 2
1:30 p.m.	Miami vs. Texas	**TV:** 2
4 p.m.	Women, Miami vs. Louisiana State	**TV:** ESPN
6 p.m.	Women, Louisville vs. Iowa	**TV:** ESPN
COLLEGE HOCKEY: NCAA TOURNAMENT, REGIONAL FINALS		
1 p.m.	Ohio State vs. Quinnipiac	**TV:** ESPN2
3:30 p.m.	Penn State vs. Michigan	**TV:** ESPN2
COLLEGE LACROSSE		
9 a.m.	Penn at Cornell	**TV:** ESPNU
9 a.m.	Women, Duke at Pittsburgh	**TV:** ACC
11 a.m.	Women, Clemson at North Carolina	**TV:** ACC
Noon	Women, Oregon at USC	**TV:** Pac-12LA
4 p.m.	Rutgers at Ohio State	**TV:** Big Ten
COLLEGE SOFTBALL		
10 a.m.	Minnesota at Northwestern	**TV:** Big Ten
11 a.m.	Radford at Winthrop	**TV:** ESPNU
Noon	UCLA at Oregon	**TV:** Pac-12
1 p.m.	Syracuse at Notre Dame	**TV:** ACC
2 p.m.	Arizona State at California	**TV:** Pac-12
FISHING		
8 a.m.	Bassmaster Classic	**TV:** FS1
9 a.m.	Bassmaster Classic	**TV:** 11
GOLF		
7 a.m.	Dell Technologies Match Play, semifinals	**TV:** Golf
11 a.m.	Corales Puntacana Championship, final round	**TV:** Golf
Noon	Dell Technologies Match Play, final	**TV:** 4
4 p.m.	LPGA Drive On Championship, final round	**TV:** Golf
HOCKEY		
Noon	Colorado at Arizona	**TV:** NHL
3 p.m.	Toronto at Nashville	**TV:** NHL
7:30 p.m.	St. Louis at Kings	**TV:** BSW **R:** iHeart
HORSE RACING		
Noon	America's Day at the Races	**TV:** BSSC, FS1
PRO FOOTBALL		
Noon	XFL, San Antonio at Arlington	**TV:** 7
SOCCER		
6 a.m.	UEFA European qualifying, Denmark at Kazakhstan	**TV:** FS1
9 a.m.	UEFA European qualifying, Iceland at Liechtenstein	**TV:** FS2
9 a.m.	Peru, Comercio at Municipal	**TV:** GOLTV
11:45 a.m.	UEFA European qualifying, Portugal at Luxembourg	**TV:** FS2
2 p.m.	Mexico, Tour Aguila, Tijuana vs. America	**TV:** TUDN
4 p.m.	Mexico, women, Atlas at Santos Laguna	**TV:** FOXD
5 p.m.	CONCACAF, Nations League, Jamaica at Mexico	**TV:** KFTR, TUDN, UniMas
6 p.m.	NWSL, Gotham FC at Angel City FC	**TV:** Paramount+ **R:** 1330
TENNIS		
8 a.m.	Miami Open, third round	**TV:** Tennis
10 a.m.	Miami Open, third round	**TV:** BSW
4 p.m.	Miami Open, third round	**TV:** Tennis

GOLF

Scheffler rallies twice to advance

WIRE REPORTS

Defending champion Scottie Scheffler twice had to rally from deficits to win both matches and reach the semifinals of the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play in Austin, Texas, for the third straight year.

Rory McIlroy joined him by making 17 birdies in two matches that went the distance.

The final version of the Match Play lived up to its edge-of-the-seat reputation Saturday, with wild turns of momentum until four players remained.

Sam Burns advanced by beating Patrick Cantlay in 17 holes and then overcoming an early deficit to beat Mackenzie Hughes of Canada, 3 and 2. Cameron Young looked as if he had an easy time, until it wasn't. He was 3 up at the turn, missed a chance to go 4 up on the 12th and then had to go to the 18th hole before he could dispatch Kurt Kitayama.

Hojgaard, rookie Stevens share lead

Nicolai Hojgaard of Denmark played bogey-free for a six-under 66 and shared the lead with PGA Tour rookie Sam Stevens in the Corales Punta Cana Championship in the Dominican Republic.

They are one shot ahead of a large group that included 36-hole leader Matt Wallace of England, Thomas Detry of Belgium and Tyler Duncan.

Boutier grabs one-shot LPGA lead

Celine Boutier of France had an eagle and six birdies in a round of seven-under 65 and moved atop the leaderboard when Moriya Jutanugarn of Thailand stumbled down the stretch in the third round of the LPGA Drive on Championship in Gold Canyon, Ariz.

Elsewhere

David Toms shot a two-under-par 70 to maintain his one-shot lead after two rounds of the PGA Champions Galleri Classic in Rancho Mirage. Kevin Sutherland also shot a 70 and is in second place. … Alexander Knappe overtook fellow German Nick Bachem to take a one-shot lead into the final round of the Jonsson Workwear Open as he chases a first European tour title in Johannesburg.

Eric Gay Associated Press

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER plays a shot from a bunker on the seventh hole during a quarterfinal match.

GOLF LEADERS

$20-MILLION DELL TECHNOLOGIES MATCH PLAY
At Austin, Texas—Par 71
Austin Country Club—7,108 yards
Quarterfinals
(seedings in parentheses)

Sam Burns (13), d. Mackenzie Hughes (50), Canada, 3 and 2. Scottie Scheffler (1), d. Jason Day (32), Australia, 2 and 1. Rory McIlroy (3), Northern Ireland, d. Xander Schauffele (6), 1-up. Cameron Young (15), d. Kurt Kitayama (19), 1-up.

Fourth round

Mackenzie Hughes (50), Canada, d. Max Homa (5), 3 and 2. Sam Burns (13), d. Patrick Cantlay (4), 2 and 1. Jason Day (32), Australia, d. Matt Kuchar (59), 1-up. Scottie Scheffler (1), d. J.T. Poston (43), 1-up. Xander Schauffele (6), d. J.J. Spaun (61), 3 and 2. Rory McIlroy (3), Northern Ireland, d. Lucas Herbert (46), Australia, 2-up. Kurt Kitayama (19), d. Andrew Putnam (56), 6 and 5. Cameron Young (15), d. Billy Horschel (22), 5 and 4.

CHAMPIONS TOUR
$2.2-MILLION GALLERI CLASSIC
At Rancho Mirage—Par 72
Dinah Shore Tournament Course—7,112 yards
36-hole leaders

David Toms	65-70—135	-9
Kevin Sutherland	66-70—136	-8
Steven Alker	68-69—137	-7
Rocco Mediate	67-70—137	-7
Harry Rudolph	70-67—137	-7
Steve Stricker	69-68—137	-7
Fred Couples	68-70—138	-6
Brian Gay	68-70—138	-6
Paul Goydos	71-67—138	-6
Padraig Harrington	67-71—138	-6
Miguel Angel Jimenez	70-68—138	-6
Brett Quigley	67-71—138	-6
Vijay Singh	67-71—138	-6
Mike Weir	70-68—138	-6
Michael Allen	69-70—139	-5
Doug Barron	71-68—139	-5
Alex Cejka	69-70—139	-5
Thongchai Jaidee	71-68—139	-5
David McKenzie	71-68—139	-5
Rod Pampling	67-72—139	-5
Paul Stankowski	70-69—139	-5
Mario Tiziani	69-70—139	-5
Ernie Els	72-68—140	-4
Jim Furyk	69-71—140	-4
Matt Gogel	71-69—140	-4
Retief Goosen	71-69—140	-4
Richard Green	67-73—140	-4
Lee Janzen	70-70—140	-4

$3.8-MILLION CORALES PUNTACANA CHAMPIONSHIP
At Punta Cana, Dominican Republic—Par 72
Corales Golf Club—7,670 yards
54-hole leaders

Nicolai Hojgaard	71-65-66—202	-14
Sam Stevens	69-65-68—202	-14
Wyndham Clark	69-65-69—203	-13
Thomas Detry	70-68-65—203	-13
Tyler Duncan	71-65-67—203	-13
Matt Wallace	67-66-70—203	-13
Ricky Barnes	68-70-66—204	-12
Austin Eckroat	69-69-66—204	-12
Martin Trainer	69-70-65—204	-12
Brice Garnett	66-70-70—206	-10
Ben Martin	66-72-69—207	-9
Vincent Norrman	71-70-66—207	-9
Matthias Schwab	71-68-68—207	-9
Akshay Bhatia	73-63-72—208	-8
Brent Grant	69-69-70—208	-8
Harry Hall	71-68-69—208	-8
Scott Harrington	70-72-66—208	-8
Henrik Norlander	72-67-69—208	-8

$1.8-MILLION LPGA DRIVE ON CHAMPIONSHIP
At Gold Canyon, Ariz.—Par 72
a-Prospectors Course—6,690 yards;
b-Lost Gold Course—7,350 yards
54-hole leaders

Celine Boutier	69a-66a-65a—200	-16
Moriya Jutanugarn	67a-65a-69a—201	-15
Alison Lee	65a-69a-67a—201	-15
Hae-Ran Ryu	70a-67a-64a—201	-15
Celine Borge	71a-68a-63a—202	-14
Ariya Jutanugarn	75a-64a-63a—202	-14
Na Rin An	67a-67a-69a—203	-13
Georgia Hall	68a-67a-68a—203	-13
Charley Hull	71a-66a-66a—203	-13
Sei Young Kim	69a-67a-67a—203	-13
Cheyenne Knight	72a-65a-66a—203	-13
Jin Young Ko	70a-65a-68a—203	-13
Annie Park	70a-65a-68a—203	-13
Hinako Shibuno	74a-64a-65a—203	-13
Jenny Shin	65a-67a-71a—203	-13
Maddie Szeryk	67a-65a-71a—203	-13
Lilia Vu	67a-66a-70a—203	-13
Amy Yang	70a-70a-63a—203	-13
Ally Ewing	71a-67a-66a—204	-12
Ayaka Furue	68a-69a-67a—204	-12
Wei-Ling Hsu	66a-70a-68a—204	-12
Nanna Koerstz Madsen	69a-70a-65a—204	-12
Jennifer Kupcho	72a-67a-65a—204	-12
Gaby Lopez	65a-71a-68a—204	-12
Atthaya Thitikul	69a-70a-65a—204	-12

Los Angeles Times
SPORTS
SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS
††

NCAA TOURNAMENT | WOMEN'S SWEET 16

NO. 1 SOUTH CAROLINA 59, NO. 4 UCLA 43

MIC SMITH Associated Press

KAMILLA CARDOSO of South Carolina fights for a rebound against UCLA's Gabriela Jaquez (23) and Christeen Iwuala in a Sweet 16 matchup. The Gamecocks (35-0) won their 41st consecutive game and remain on track for a third title in the last six tournaments.

ERRS TO THE THRONE

Hoping they could hang with champions, Bruins instead sent packing

By Thuc Nhi Nguyen

GREENVILLE, S.C. — When South Carolina's Kamilla Cardoso is swatting shots like the one she did against UCLA's Londynn Jones — chasing down the speedy guard in transition during the second quarter and spiking the ball off the backboard — Cori Close can do little more than shake her head.

"Oh brother," the Bruins coach said of the play that encapsulated both South Carolina's defensive prowess and UCLA's offensive ineptitude Saturday.

The top-ranked Gamecocks smothered the No. 4-seeded Bruins in a 59-43 rout that ended UCLA's season in the Greenville Regional 1 semifinal at Bon Secours Wellness Arena. Though UCLA (27-10) became one of two teams to hold the defending national champions to fewer than 60 points this season, the Bruins also suffered their lowest-scoring game since 2012.

South Carolina (35-0), hoping to become the first repeat NCAA champion since Connecticut won four consecutive titles from 2013 to 2016, will play No. 2 seed Maryland in the Elite Eight on Monday.

The Gamecocks will get a boost from their home-state fans who filled the arena Saturday. Except for a small patch of blue-and-gold-clad fans sitting opposite the Bruins' bench, the majority of the 12,879 was wearing South Carolina's garnet and black.

The stage seemed to rattle the Bruins, who pointed to the noise as a factor in their offensive struggles.

"We couldn't get on the same page," senior Camryn Brown said. "We were a little frantic out there."

Senior Charisma Osborne, probably playing in her final college game, finished with a team-high 14 points but committed a season-high five turnovers.

If the former L.A. Windward star gives up her last season of eligibili-

[See **UCLA,** D6]

ADAM HUNGER Associated Press

OWLS ARE A REAL HOOT

Florida Atlantic coach Dusty May holds up the trophy as players celebrate after beating Kansas State to win the East Region in New York. In Las Vegas, Connecticut dismantled Gonzaga 82-54 to win the West. **D6**

Clippers aren't finding proper urgency

Slow start sets tone in loss to Pelicans, and injury to Leonard raises more concerns.

NEW ORLEANS 131
CLIPPERS 110

By Andrew Greif

To avoid the play-in tournament or hold onto home-court advantage for a first-round series, the Clippers need a big finish to the regular season.

Starts like the one that led to Saturday's 131-110 loss will make that more difficult.

Facing the New Orleans Pelicans at Crypto.com Arena, the Clippers trailed by eight within two minutes, before most fans had taken their seats.

Two minutes into the second quarter, their 11-point deficit had grown to 19.

Barely more than four minutes into the third, their 12-point deficit was up to 18.

With the suspense gone, the attention during the second half turned toward what was happening off stage. Clippers star Kawhi Leonard left for the locker room with four minutes left in the third quarter after being elbowed in the face by Pelicans wing Brandon Ingram. Team executives quickly left their seats to follow Leonard down the arena tunnel.

Leonard suffered a facial bruise and did not return. Not that there was any need. The Clippers were so thoroughly routed that coach Tyronn Lue inserted the

[See **Clippers,** D4]

MARK J. TERRILL Associated Press

KAWHI LEONARD missed all six of his three-point shots, scored 12 points and was injured.

KATELYN MULCAHY Getty Images for Angel City FC

AMERICA FERRERA, a founding member of the Angel City FC ownership group, missed 10 of the team's first 11 home games but promises to be there today.

Angel City ownership gives Ferrera's mission kick-start

By Kevin Baxter

America Ferrera has decided to confront her fears.

"I had raging FOMO, which I'm not prone to," the Emmy-winning actor said, using an acronym for the fear of missing out. "It killed me."

The first step in conquering a fear is identifying it, and Ferrera has done that. What she missed out on, she said, was Angel City's inaugural season in the NWSL — which wouldn't have been so bad, except she is a founding member of the ownership group.

And an owner being absent for 10 of her team's first 11 home games is a little like a parent missing a child's first steps or skipping a first dance recital. Those are moments you can't get back.

"That is a very, very sad and sore subject," she said. "I was working in London and had to watch all of the fun from afar."

She's promised to be there Sunday when Angel City kicks off its second season, facing Gotham FC at BMO Stadium. But the soccer is only part of the draw. What got Ferrera to sign on with the team before it had a player, coach or stadium was the fact it had a purpose, one that was more about impacting the community than it was about winning games.

"That's exactly the reason I am involved at all," said Ferrera, a longtime advocate for political and social justice causes. "I had zero intention to be a founding investor in a sports team. Of all the things on my resume, that was not one thing that I felt like I [needed]. For me, it's the heart and the mission and the intention and the power behind the purpose of Angel City, which has been unabashedly about creating more access and opportunity and quality for female athletes."

Born to Honduran parents in Los Angeles, Ferrera, 38, graduated from El Camino High in Woodland Hills and studied at USC on a presidential scholarship, majoring in theater and international relations. Those ties to Southern California make her ownership stake in

[See **Ferrera,** D5]

NWSL SEASON OPENER

Gotham FC vs. Angel City

Tonight at BMO
Stadium, 6
TV: Paramount+

'It's truly so profound and fulfilling for me to get to be a founding investor of this organization.'

—America Ferrara, Angel City co-owner

LAFC still unbeaten, Galaxy winless

LAFC rallies for 2-1 win over Dallas while Galaxy go scoreless in Portland but gain third straight tie. **D5**

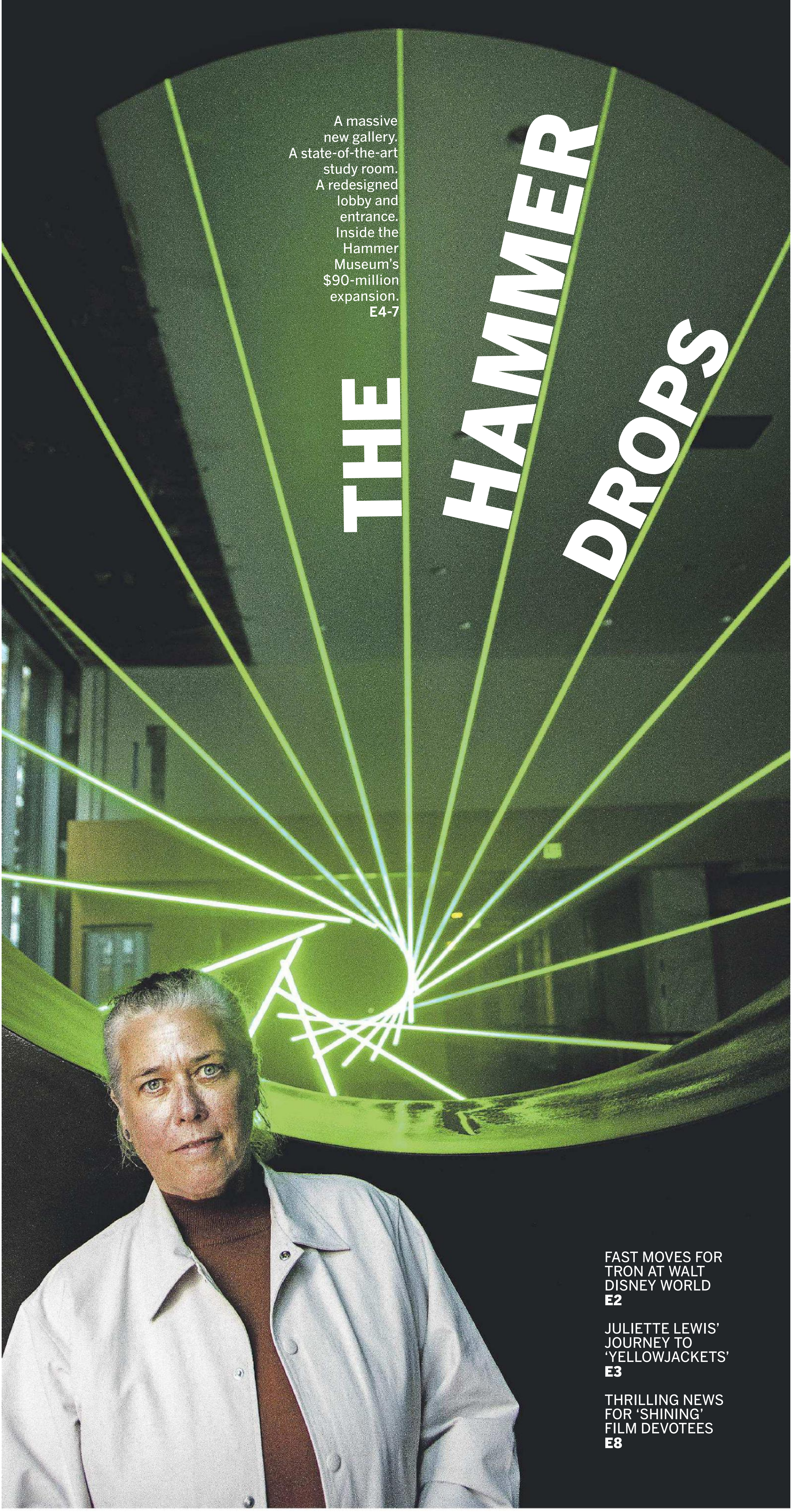
Kings tie franchise record in win

Los Angeles tops Winnipeg and earns a point in 11th straight game to match mark from 2013-14 season. **D5**

James doubtful against Bulls

His playing status upgraded from out, the Lakers star appears to be nearing a return from foot injury. **D4**

Los Angeles Times
CALENDAR



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E4-7

FAST MOVES FOR TRON AT WALT DISNEY WORLD
E2

JULIETTE LEWIS' JOURNEY TO 'YELLOWJACKETS'
E3

THRILLING NEWS FOR 'SHINING' FILM DEVOTEES
E8

Rita McBride with her laser installation "Particulates." RICARDO DEARATANHA Los Angeles Times

Photographs from Disney

A NEW DIMENSION AT WALT DISNEY WORLD. TRY NOT TO BLINK

FILM-INSPIRED RIDE TRON LIGHTCYCLE / RUN, OPENING APRIL 4, IS GORGEOUS AND INTERACTIVE, YET IT FEELS TOO SHORT

TODD MARTENS
GAME CRITIC
ORLANDO, Fla.

THE SKYLINE of Walt Disney World's Tomorrowland has long been marked by the circular dome and star-reaching spires of Space Mountain, a cylindrical building whose decorative lines are constantly pointing skyward. In Florida, Space Mountain is nestled close to the Contemporary Resort and is easily visible to those taking transportation and walking to the Magic Kingdom. It stands as a symbol of optimism, a mid-1970s structure that dreams upward and celebrates the promise of discovery via space travel. ¶ The new Tron Lightcycle / Run — yes, that is how it is stylized — doesn't exactly look like a building. Its entrance is a grand canopy, one that is designed to match the sense of motion of the roller coaster nestled under it. All glistening white curves and otherworldly flows, the entrance to Lightcycle / Run recalls gorgeous architectural works — I think of the Frank Gehry-designed bridge and pavilion of Chicago's Millennium Park, where steel panels wind us through an urban park and frame the greenery and skies with a sense of wonder.

As a sight, it's a triumph — a building for a ride inspired by a movie about video games — a ride that *feels* like a video game — that still can evoke a sense of comfort while looking like nothing else in a Disney theme park. It works with Space Mountain, as both are terminals to other places — Space Mountain to the horizons and Lightcycle / Run to our digital-focused universe of today and likely tomorrow. The latest addition to Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom, the ride opens April 4. The attraction brings a unique vehicle to a Disney theme park, and makes the argument that video games are the dominant cultural medium of our time.

THE TRON Lightcycle / Run building is a majestic, otherworldly structure that creates a sense of motion.

The ride is an import, first opening at Shanghai Disneyland in 2016, and announced for Walt Disney World in 2017. It brings a much-needed new attraction to the Magic Kingdom, the most visited theme park on the planet, and it stands as one of the fastest coasters ever created by Walt Disney Imagineering. It's short — only about a minute long, if one doesn't count some preshow magic tricks in the queue — but Disney reps said it could hit 60 mph, and it does so quickly.

Though "Tron" may appear like a slightly unlikely franchise to bring to American audiences — here in the States "Tron" was a success, but it's by no means one of the company's most recognizable franchises — I see it more as an acknowledgment that today's audiences were weaned on the interactivity of video games and increasingly expect content that reflects that. Disney has created an elaborate backstory for how the attraction fits into the world of "Tron," but prior knowledge isn't really needed: We are digitized and brought into a blacklighted video game arena to have a Lightcycle race against another computerized team.

One quick thing to note: The ride vehicles feel great. Even if "Tron" isn't a brand on par with Marvel or "Star Wars," those neon-lit motorcycles — the Lightcycles — are indeed recognizable, and one glimpse of them and their panther-like slickness and we wish we could get on one. We can, and the attraction stands as Disney's first motorcycle-like coaster, as in guests will straddle a seat and lean forward as if on an actual motorbike. Pulling back on the metal handlebars and being locked into the attraction is probably my favorite moment of the ride, as instantaneously we feel as if we are entering a fantasy vehicle.

Early social media reaction has focused heavily on the accessibility of the attraction. Getting on the ride will require some light flexibility, as these coaster seats are robust, but in a number of ride-throughs at a prerelease media event I witnessed only one guest having trouble being locked into a seat. An informal sampling, of course, but I know of not-small people who haven't had an issue on the vehicles when they visited Shanghai Disneyland, and until theme parks more openly acknowledge restrictions on new thrill rides, it will be a source of social media speculation and backlash.

But while it's true that one's body type could affect their ability to ride a Lightcycle, some coaster trains are outfitted with rather large-but-standard coaster cars in the back. While some may choose this option to avoid the heightened thrills of the Lightcycle, there's a worthy debate to be had over theme park design and rider accessibility, and as audiences demand more thrills and unique ride experiences, such a conversation isn't going to disappear. (An Imagineering rep declined to discuss specifics on the vehicle's accessibility.)

Let's get to the actual ride experience. The good news: Lightcycle / Run is fun. The bad news: It's short and overall feels slight.

The actual ride, for instance, doesn't match the ambition of the building it's housed in, as once we're off, we're off, and the ride could use an extra 20 or 30 seconds, with the understanding that the faster coasters become, the quicker the ride will be. We first travel outside and under the canopy — twinkling at night but white-bright during the day. I don't really have a day or night preference, as both frame the riders with airiness and allow us to feel as if we are traveling somewhere new.

That place is the video game-like darkened show building, and the moment we enter is the strongest part of the coaster, as we take a slight dip and a quick turn. As our eyes adjust to the darkness, the track is largely invisible, and if you're on a Lightcycle, expect a freeing sensation as the ride vehicle leans to its left. There are projections of our ride competitors, and digitized gates we have to pass through to successfully complete the game-like trappings of the experience.

In terms of Disney thrill rides, it's fast, it's sleek and it does indeed provide a thrill. But after spending a couple of days in Walt Disney World, and revisiting coasters such as its Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, ever-so-slightly longer than our Anaheim version, Space Mountain, Epcot's Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind and Animal Kingdom's Expedition Everest, Lightcycle / Run felt a bit lacking in ambition. It counts on uniqueness of the ride vehicle and speed more than its theming or even coaster design.

I missed the sensation I had after riding Expedition Everest for the first time, and marveling at the mysteries hidden inside an elaborately detailed mountain. While Disneyland's Space Mountain is superior to Walt Disney World's version, I feel that ride captures a sense of an explorer's optimism, and Big Thunder Mountain, on both coasts, is full of lifts and turns with a track built cleverly into the landscape to keep us guessing, and has no shortage of design to stroke our sense of wonder. Even the new Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind at Epcot, though given a too-elaborate setup, puts us in vehicles that twist and turn and feel as if we're dancing on a track, a sensation built for surprise.

Lightcycle / Run will please guests — I was happy the first time I rode it, after all — but I worry it lacks a level of repeatability that other coasters at Disney possess (many of which better highlight Imagineering's famed attention to detail). And given how crowded Disney theme parks are these days, the actual time in the coaster vehicle — again, about a minute — feels too short. The computerized innards of the queue, as well as a brief illusion that introduces guests to the digital world, are well done, but for a ride that aims to transport us into a video game, and place us in a race against other Lightcycles, opportunities were missed to heighten the tension, either in track design or a show building design that could allow for more elaborate projections of our competitors.

Ultimately, Lightcycle / Run seems a victim of Disney's own previous successes. Big Thunder Mountain, for instance, remains a masterpiece, and when it was introduced at Disney parks in the late 1970s and early '80s felt epic in design, arguing that the roller coaster could tell a story as well as it could provide a thrill. Lightcycle / Run plays it more simple, emphasizing pure entertainment rather than theme park awe.

However, the new ride does have timing on its side. In an era when theme park rides are increasingly interactive — and video games are dominating pop culture and being adapted to film and television at a rapid pace — a ride that places us inside a video game race feels of-the-moment in 2023. And for being inspired by a 1982 film and its 2010 sequel, that may be Lightcycle / Run's greatest accomplishment.

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RODEO 1:20 4:20 7:10
LA CIVIL 3:50 PM
THE FORGER 1:00 7:00
TEHRANTO 1:30 4:30 7:20

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
THE LOST KING PG-13 1:20 4:30 7:20
THE TUTOR R 7:20 PM
INSIDE R 1:20 PM
MOVING ON R 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30
THE QUIET GIRL PG-13 1:30 7:10
CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON PG-13 4:00 PM
RETURN TO SEOUL R 1:10 4:10 7:10
A DIFFICULT LIFE NR 1:00 4:00 7:00
THE WHALE R 4:20 PM

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
A GOOD PERSON R 1:00 4:00 7:00
THE LOST KING PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:20
MOVING ON R 12:50 5:10
THE QUIET GIRL PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30
THE FORGER 1:00 4:10 7:10
TEHRANTO 2:55 7:20

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
A GOOD PERSON R 1:15 4:15 7:20
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4 R 12:50 4:00 7:30
THE LOST KING PG-13 1:30 7:10
THE SCHOOL OF MAGICAL ANIMALS PG 12:55 5:20
INSIDE R 4:20 PM
MOVING ON R 3:10 7:35
SHAZAM! FURY OF THE GODS PG-13 1:00 4:30 7:40
65 PG-13 12:50 3:10 5:25 7:40
CHAMPIONS PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00

GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4 R 12:50 3:50 7:30
SHAZAM! FURY OF THE GODS PG-13 12:50 4:00 7:00
THE QUIET GIRL PG-13 1:20 7:20
PACIFICTION 4:00 PM
RETURN TO SEOUL R *SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;* 4:20 PM
A DIFFICULT LIFE (UNA VITA DIFFICILE) NR 1:00 7:30
APE VS. MECHA APE 4:30 PM
SUZHOU RIVER (2000) 1:30 7:40

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
A GOOD PERSON R 1:00 4:00 7:00
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4 R 12:50 4:00 7:30
THE LOST KING PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:20
INSIDE R 1:30 4:20 7:30
SHAZAM! FURY OF THE GODS PG-13 1:00 4:30 7:40
TWO FRIENDS 1:10 4:10 7:10
SCREAM VI R 1:10 4:10 7:10

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4 R 12:50 4:00 7:30
THE LOST KING PG-13 1:10 7:40
MOVING ON R 4:30 PM
SHAZAM! FURY OF THE GODS PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00
SCREAM VI R 1:10 4:10 7:10
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THE SUNDAY CONVERSATION

Juliette Lewis' lessons in survival

'YELLOWJACKETS' STAR DISCUSSES HER OFFBEAT ROLES AND HOW HER ATTITUDE TOWARD HER CAREER HAS EVOLVED

JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

LORRAINE ALI
TELEVISION CRITIC

FROM A SERIAL KILLER to a roller derby queen, Juliette Lewis has excelled at playing wild cards and outliers. The former child actor and '90s It Girl returns to the fray on Sunday with Season 2 of Showtime's breakout hit, "Yellowjackets," reprising her role as the hard-drinking, expert markswoman Natalie. The show alternates between present day and 1996, when her all-girl high school soccer team fought for survival after their plane crashed in the wilderness. And now as an adult, she's haunted by what they had to do to make it out alive (as are fans of the show). ¶ "Yellowjackets" can be best described as a psychological thriller with dark cannibalistic tendencies, and Lewis' performance is one of her more notable forays into series TV to date (other recent projects include HBO's "I Know This Much Is True" and Hulu's "Welcome to Chippendales"). But Lewis is no stranger to garnering attention with her dynamic performances. At 19, she landed an Oscar nomination for her role in Martin Scorsese's "Cape Fear." Lewis went on to star in films like "What's Eating Gilbert Grape," "Kalifornia" and Oliver Stone's "Natural Born Killers" — all before turning 22. But the pressures and excesses of fame were too much, and she withdrew from the spotlight.

Now back in her element, Lewis spoke with The Times. Wearing a faded lilac sweatshirt emblazoned with the word "Dreamer," black nail polish, worn sneakers and rainbow tie-dye socks, she discussed her rise to fame, her retreat and what it means that "Yellowjackets" is now one of the most anticipated series returning to television.

"Yellowjackets" is such a unique series, a cross between "Lord of the Flies" and "Mean Girls," wrapped inside an obsessive, dark mystery. I know you can't divulge much about the new season, but what can we expect from Natalie?

This season, she's predominantly made up of shame, guilt, denial and then a fierce and ignited purpose of seeking redemption, or self-revelation.

The show runs on two timelines, the 1990s and the present. Like you, Melanie Lynskey, Christina Ricci and Tawny Cypress play the adult versions of the surviving teens — women with dark secrets. But Natalie seems particularly haunted.

They're all lost to some degree, but she of all the characters is the most imprisoned by the events and has had the least — I don't want to call it advancement — but the pretended living of life or family. She's on the outskirts of existing. And she has all these addictive tendencies. But I found her initially puzzling. To picture her, I asked to creators, "How does she make money? Do we think it's always petty crime kind of stuff?" So that's her backstory. She's one of those people that can't go home, they hate it. And then seeing all the friends that trigger all this stuff, she tries all the time to run away, but she loves Misty (Ricci) and these characters you'd think she'd never hang out with. She's not as cavalier or callous as you might first think.

But in contrast to other characters like Shauna (Lynskey), a soccer mom who dismembers more than cuts of meat for dinner, she's not so bad.

What's so funny is that Natalie's actually maybe the sanest one. She's just acting out pain. The others all have slightly sociopathic tendencies.

You were just 15 when you played the role of Audrey in "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation." How did you get into acting?

I don't come from academia or any kind of schooling. I was just always around artists. My dad [actor Geoffrey Lewis] and his friends, Karen Black and my mom, everybody being super pro-art, and then the sets — I grew up on them. They're familiar stomping grounds ... people in bloodied cowboy suits, laying there, sunning in the desert. Those are my earliest set memories. My dad would leave me and my sister in the makeup and hair trailer while he worked.

KAILEY SCHWERMAN Showtime

You mean Karen Black of "Nashville" and "The Day of the Locust" fame?

She was a good friend of my parents'. She was so instrumental in my becoming aware that I have a creative spark. It originated from these epic charades games we would play at her house with her kids and friends. And she just had so much enthusiasm for playing and make-believe. And my dad would do storytelling to music. There was a lot of performance art, and he took dance in New York. It was always about your [whole] creative self, rather than you're *in* acting or you're a child actor. It wasn't so square for me.

Did you always lean toward offbeat roles?

I did. I have an affinity for people that are different. Even in class, I gravitated toward underdogs — I guess I was one in ways — or people who weren't being paid attention to. And then in my teen years, the great irony is that acting kept me out of trouble. I could have been destined for hanging out with criminals. So when I was acting at a young age, it gave me structure, a real sense of purpose. I felt I knew what I was doing when I was creating other people.

I assume it was hard to maintain that structure when you hit those high levels of fame in your late teens?

I was always like "The Girl" in these huge male-dominated movies, and that was fantastic for me, actually. I was given reverence and treated equally. I was really spoiled — I didn't really know that. People said that at the time, "You're going to be spoiled after working with Scorsese." I didn't know it was rare. But later I was always having to prove myself. I never got to the place of like, just like a Charlize Theron. I didn't do the maintenance program, the trajectory. ... I fought against the magazine culture of it and the cultivating of an image. And in my sort of deconstructed way, I created an image that is an individual stick. Now people have a very strong identity about me, ironically, out of what I *didn't* do. I didn't do Maxim covers, [tried to] sabotaged a Vogue cover by going, "No, I want this photographer, I don't want to wear this!" I knew what I didn't want. But some of it was out of ambush or rebellion or sabotage.

Archive Photos / Getty Images

FAME isn't new to Juliette Lewis, who stars in the hit "Yellowjackets," center. With Woody Harrelson in "Natural Born Killers," above.

And you retreated.

I changed my life. I re-prioritized and went on a self-discovery journey and pulled back from show business.

Given your early experiences, do you feel protective of the younger, female performers you work with on "Yellowjackets"?

Sophie [Thatcher, who plays teen Natalie], she's so smart and different than I was. I mean, I was smart, but I was introverted at her age and didn't know the machine. I didn't know what it meant when I got nominated. It's huge pressure. Had I known that you do press for the team, I might have been able to stomach it better. But I was like, 19, and I didn't know what to do with this kind of stuff. And I didn't have a stylist, which is the norm now. Like for the Oscars, I got a vintage dress that was tacked up on the wall in a thrift store. I was like, "That'll do!" It didn't fit me right, I was too skinny. That would be unheard of now. It's a much different time. It's a well-oiled machine, but [my advice is] that it's always good to maintain your own sense of freewill and self determinism and not be too hooked to your career.

Your refusal to comply at different turns in your career is part of what your fans love about you, especially in the film industry, where women have been allowed so little latitude.

Thank you. I put a lot of thought into what I do. People wouldn't know it because they'll sometimes think I'm that way [like my characters], so it was effortless. I'm not and it's not. I have a standard, and a relationship to my audience, to what they expect. I want to make something super fresh and unexpected without thinking too much, and also be very true and honest to the text and the material I'm given. So it's complicated. And in [serialized TV], I don't know what is coming next. It's a different medium than film.

Natalie's hotel room meltdown in Season 1 is one of those fresh, unexpected moments. It's still referenced on social media as one of the more memorable onscreen implosions.

The tantrum! I wanted to show a real tantrum like when you lose your s— alone and it looks uncontrollable. I liked that scene because I love when I do things that I've never done before. Even though I might have done volatile before, that's not the same. I wanted to be like a 2-year-old, roll yourself on the bed, and you break stuff. And even within that, when you choreograph a thing, there's cliched pitfalls you're always trying to avoid. How do you then let go of that, to make it fully realized or totally unexpected? You don't want to telegraph it. You don't want to push too hard and make it melodramatic.

Do you, Melanie or Christina ever have a chance to compare notes on how different things are now because you all started out young in the business?

I was just loving our text chain. We all have the craziest, filthiest, wicked sense of humor. Deadpan. And I guess I've never worked with a cast of 99% women actors before so that's unusual. And then the second part is that there's no pretension. And then Lauren Ambrose [adult Van] came into the fold. She's one of us. Simone Kessell [adult Lottie], she's a New Zealand actor who's just incredible. We had to do all these night [shoots] and, you know, we're the older girls. We're going to be in the cold weather. It's different on a 47-year-old body than 22. I'm a little cranky. I had to get re-aligned with vitamin IVs from working in the wilderness at night. [Laughs.] So we get through by leaning on each other.

"Yellowjackets" blew up by the end of Season 1, and now there's all this anticipation around its return. Do you feel any of that old pressure you used to, with all this attention on you again?

At my age, I don't even let it in. It's nice because it's a different job security. It's good to have a detachment from that idea of what success is. Success to me, as a mid-lifer [laughs], is the quality of time spent and how that time felt and the experience of spending five months making something, not the outcome. And PR-wise, I don't do everything under the sun. I just can't do all the talk shows. I can't campaign because mentally it makes me feel sad and bad. It does the reverse of when you have cameras on you, and you're glad handing. ... I was never good at it. There's people who are really good at it, who can compartmentalize. For me, it taxes me and it makes me think of what I've given up. When you lose your anonymity at 20, it can permanently [mess] you up socially, and on many levels. But now I just listen to myself and make sure to give attention to the aspects of my life that have nothing to do with work.

What happens now when you unwittingly step in the spotlight?

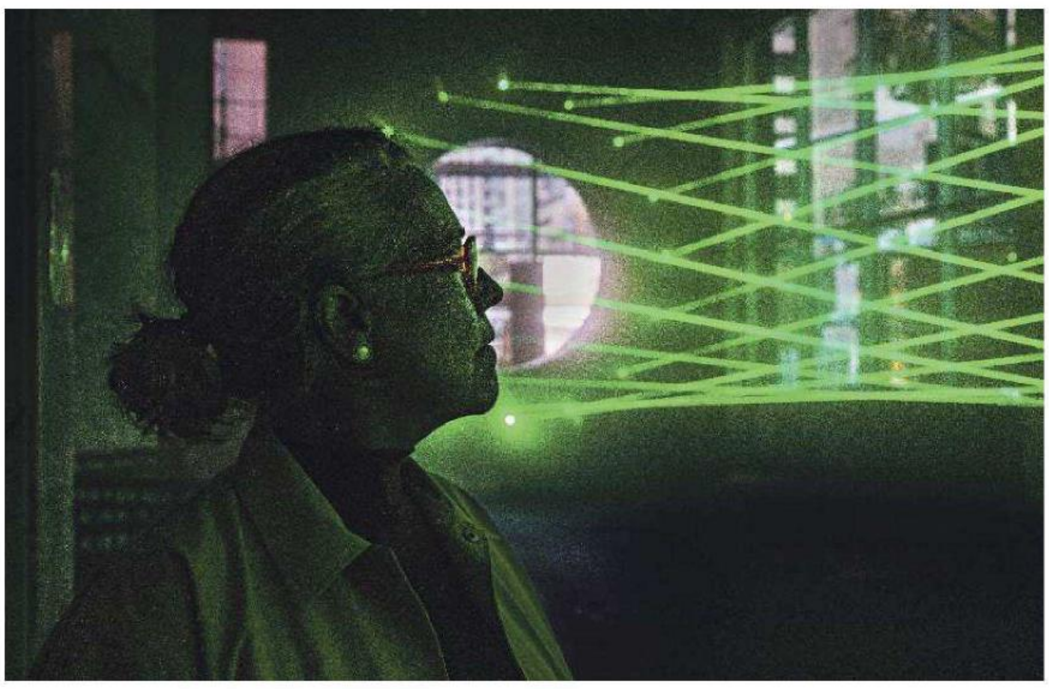
What's different than when I was a kid is that I love people connecting with me. Like people in the grocery store. That feedback — when my dad died and I was getting hugs from strangers — I was like welcomed and became part of a community in that sense. That's where fame was like a blessing ... I needed all those hugs.

TAKING A LEAP AT THE HAMMER

A MAJOR REVAMP OPENS WITH TWO IMMERSIVE INSTALLATIONS ALL ABOUT CONNECTIONS

BY DEBORAH VANKIN

THE EXTERIOR OF THE Hammer Museum is ensconced in silvery sheets of rain and heavy fog today. But inside, the atmosphere is even more dramatic. ¶ The lobby is completely enveloped in an intricate web of blood-red yarn. Lacy swaths of it drape from the ceiling and crawl up the walls. Threads of the material coil around the stair handrails and spread across the ceiling, like a fungus, nearly obscuring it. ¶ Meantime, in another area of the museum — a cavernous former bank space turned exhibition gallery — there's what appears to be a glimmering, time-travel wormhole. The dimly lit gallery fills with mist oozing from ceiling jets and glowing neon-green lasers cut through the fog, illuminating it along with wafting poofs of dust.



RICARDO DEARATANHA Los Angeles Times

TWO works, one by Chiharu Shiota, top, and another by Rita McBride, will be on view in the lobby and a renovated bank space of the Hammer, respectively. The museum is debuting its $90-million expansion project.

The unusual environments in the lobby and bank gallery are large-scale, immersive installations by Japanese artist Chiharu Shiota and Rita McBride, respectively. The Hammer is unveiling the final phase of its two decade, $90-million expansion and renovations project, designed by Michael Maltzan Architecture, on Sunday. In addition to a new sculpture terrace, featuring a monumental piece by Sanford Biggers, the project includes a brand new lobby and entrance on the corner of Wilshire and Westwood boulevards and a massive gallery for large-scale works and performances, among other uses, in the former City National Bank space next door.

It's a critical juncture for the museum, and Shiota and McBride are the perfect artists to create the inaugural works for the new spaces that house them, says Hammer curator Erin Christovale.

"We're working with ambitious artists who are women who are constantly pushing the bounds of what is considered to be women's work, who are pushing the bounds of sculpture and installation," Christovale says. "And I think that's kind of what the Hammer has always represented — supporting, particularly, women and having a feminist bent."

Standing inside Shiota's "The Network" feels like nesting inside a human heart valve. The veinlike threads of yarn form canopies over the lobby staircase, so that visitors must pass through tunnels of it to enter the museum. As the installation is underway, spools of yarn lie on the concrete floor around the lobby and heaping piles of loose thread sit in corners.

STRINGS ATTACHED

The Berlin-based Shiota, who started off as a painter, considers the work to be a three-dimensional, sculptural "drawing in space."

She says the work, as its title suggests, is about connections — community networks, neural networks, computer networks. The origin story for the work is a Japanese myth, she says. As the story goes: When a baby is born, it has an imaginary piece of red thread attached to their finger that then connects to everyone they meet in their lifetime.

"If you're living in society, everyone is connected with an invisible line," Shiota says.

The piece is also site-specific, relating to the museum at this important moment in its history. The web of yarn crisscrossing the lobby refers to connections between the artist, her team, the Hammer and the visitors who will fill it. It also relates to infinite interpretations of the many artworks on view at the Hammer.

"People coming to the museum, the contemporary art has no [standard interpretation]," Shiota says. "Everyone can think freely. It's open; 100 people, 100 opinions. Different kinds of emotions."

Webs of yarn are Shiota's signature materials, says Christovale, who curated "The Network." Shiota presented a similar piece at the 2015 Venice Biennial. She's drawn to yarn for its versatility, she says. " I like this material because sometimes it tangles, sometimes you cut it, losing it, or there's tension. It's like relationships between human beings."

To make the piece, the Hammer brought in 800 pounds of yarn. Shiota and her team have been weaving for two weeks — it will have taken three weeks by the time the piece debuts.

Sitting in a covered portion of the museum's courtyard as the rain comes down around her, Shiota fiddles with a ball of yarn on her lap, repeatedly winding, twisting and looping the thread between her fingertips. "Look, you can see [it] through the glass!" she says of the art work, while crossing the courtyard heading back to the lobby.

She's especially excited, she says, about how visible the work is from the street. The old lobby had fewer and smaller windows; the new space has soaring windows along the wall that faces Wilshire. From the outside, Shiota's bright red art work pops against the building's gray and beige exterior and is visible to passersby on foot and in their cars.

"It's very important, that quick impression," she says. "People driving by, maybe they want to come in. Then they [become curious] and they think, 'Oh, art is interesting.' "

BANK STATEMENT

Over in the old bank, it's quiet and dark and eerily still before the lights come on. Then, in an instant, the space is transformed into an ethereal, sci-fi-like setting. The focus of McBride's "Particulates" is a black-painted wall with a giant cylindrical cutout and a grouping of 16 high-intensity green lasers that shoot through it. They interlock, forming a three-dimensional-looking beam composed of geometric patterns — a

RICARDO DEARATANHA Los Angeles Times

rotated hyperbolic parabola. The glowing beam morphs, depending on the angle the piece is viewed from — elongated and tunnel-like from one angle, twisted and more compact from another — giving the lightwork an almost organic, living feel.

The lasers come to life where they intersect with mist and bits of dust in the air, appearing especially bright and animated. The work reflects off of surfaces in the room, with cross sections of it shimmering against the bank vault, the walls and the windows — even through the windows, onto Biggers' sculpture outside and the sidewalk beyond.

The artist, who splits her time between Düsseldorf, Germany, and Los Alamos, Calif., considers the work to be an immersive sculptural installation that's also a drawing in space. She asked the Hammer to keep much of the bank space "raw" as the museum was renovating.

The architect kept the wood veneer wall paneling, marble administrative counters, the original marble terrazzo floor and the bank vault. The museum sanded and resurfaced the floor directly underneath the lasers, so that water would pool there and create a reflective surface.

"Rita's work almost always engages with architecture," says Hammer chief curator, Connie Butler, who curated this presentation of "Particulates." "She wanted the residue of the corporate ruin."

In that way, "Particulates" is not only site-specific but also site-integrative, with remnants of the bank space — the debris left behind — serving as a material in the artwork in addition to the lasers, the mist and the dust particles.

"I was excited to have a somewhat politically charged space — banks are charged spaces," McBride says. "The vocabulary of this space was very specific in terms of its marble and its granite and paneling — it felt very '80s to me — and I wanted to keep some of that vocabulary present instead of stripping everything down to a white cube or a black cube, things that would make it more neutral."

The work is also about time travel, light and space, connections and quantum physics.

"It's about this possibility of being able to connect with unknown places," McBride says. "Black holes and traveling these distances that are unknown to us or where they take us. It's also an opportunity to get out of the consciousness of the moment and imagine a much larger universe."

BIG PLANS FOR NEW SPACE

A version of "Particulates" was shown in the 2016 Liverpool Biennial; another was presented at the Dia Art Foundation in 2017. Both of those exhibitions were in enclosed spaces with no windows. The bank gallery includes nearly floor-to-ceiling windows on two sides, which are heavily tinted for this exhibition so that the gallery remains dark and the lasers pop.

"This is the first time I've been able to work with real life coming in," McBride says.

As such, the work changes with the weather, the moisture in the air, the time of day and the light. "I'm working with light in a different way, daylight," McBride says. "It changes every time. It's amazingly flexible and beautiful."

The work is part of the Hammer's permanent collection, but the museum has never shown it before — it hasn't had a big enough space until now. It plans to use the bank gallery for other large-scale works in the collection that haven't been shown yet. "Works where the scale is well suited," Butler says. "Or that would just look great in a space like this, a semi-raw space with high ceilings."

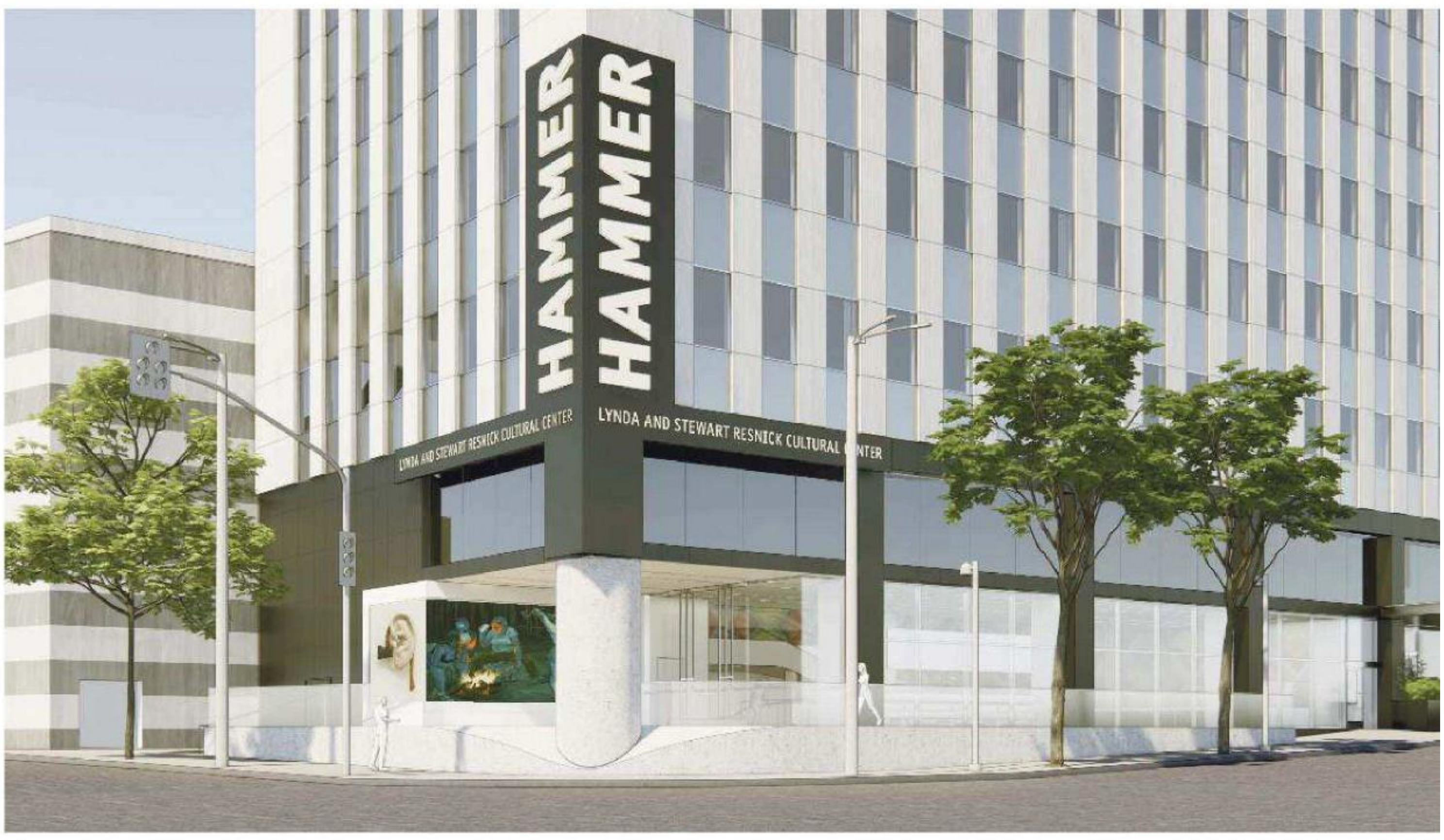
That includes a heavy, tall sculpture by Lauren Halsey, a monument to Black history, and a multiscreen video installation by Paul Chan.

While "The Network" and "Particulates" are entirely different artworks — the former more tactile and textural and the latter more digital and ephemeral — they appear to be in direct conversation. Both are composed of interlocking threads — webs — that evoke powerful, visceral reactions.

And both works, on the occasion of the new Hammer Museum debut, are about connections.

"They set the tone," Christovale says. "That we're taking a leap."

THE NEW corner entrance at Wilshire and Westwood in a museum rendering. Visitors can also enter through the garage.


HAMMER
HAMMER
LYNDA AND STEWART RESNICK CULTURAL CENTER
LYNDA AND STEWART RESNICK CULTURAL CENTER

Michael Maltzan Architecture

HOW TO NAVIGATE YOUR WAY AROUND

A trip to the Hammer Museum usually starts with a confusing tango with elevators and unexpected entryways. The art museum is debuting a newly completed entrance on Sunday coinciding with the naming of the Lynda and Stewart Resnick Cultural Center and conclusion of a two-decade transformation. This addition brings along more room to display art, a new visitors desk and a different entrance. Here's a step-by-step guide on how to navigate the improved Hammer Museum:

Entering from the parking garage: The first big change is that visitors can now enter through the garage instead of taking the elevator to Level 3. Once parked, take the first set of elevators to P1. When you walk in, the visitors desk will be at the center of the space, where museum staff can check you in and guide you to the art. This setup is vastly different from the previous lobby, where the desk was against the far wall. This area will also be home to Chiharu Shiota's large-scale installation to mark the opening.

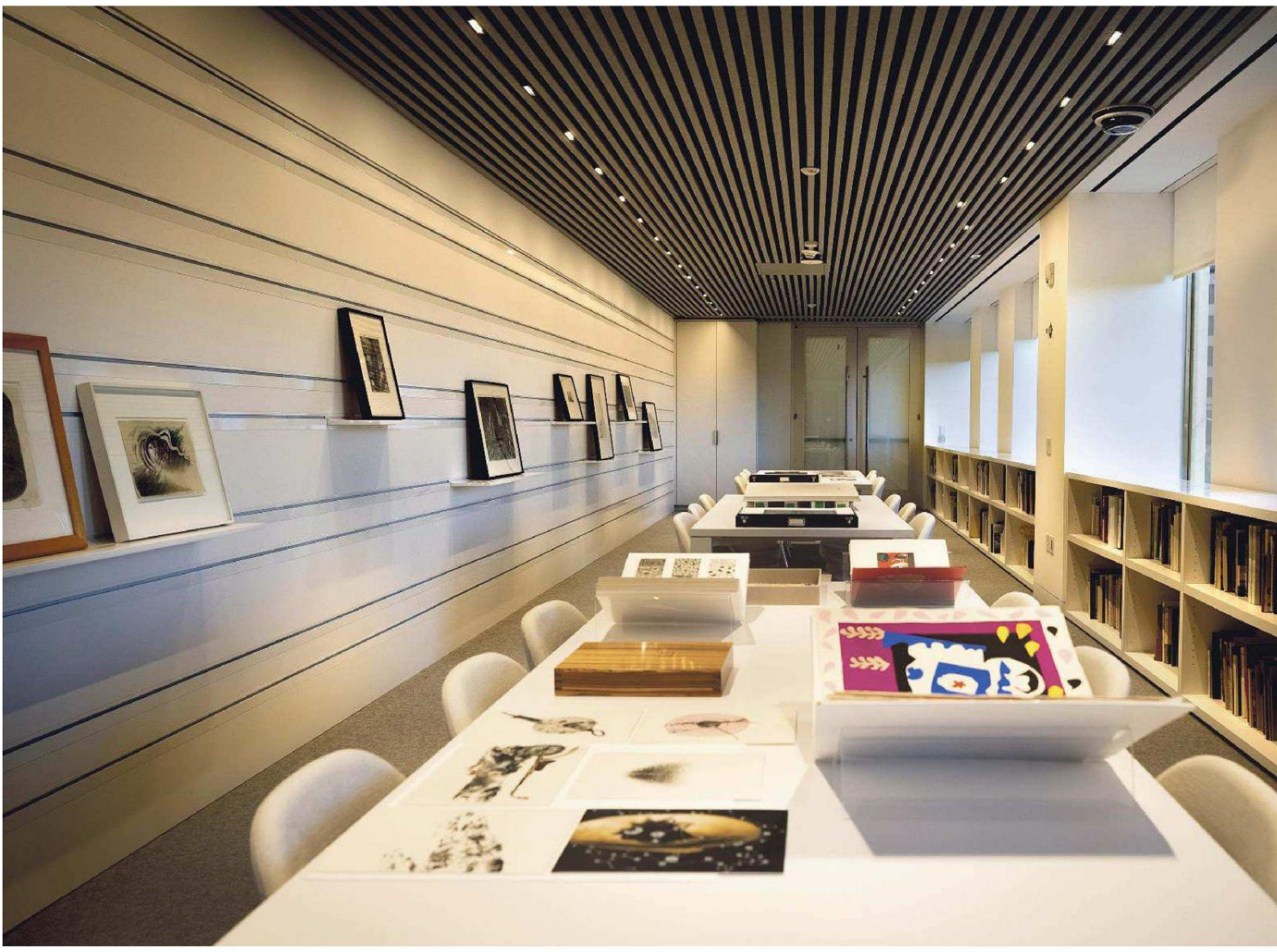
Entering from the street: There will be no more construction creating confusion about the entrance of the Hammer from Wilshire and Westwood boulevards. The entrance will have clear signage and screens welcoming you to the museum via stairs or a ramp.

From these two entry points, you can either take the stairs or elevator to the gallery spaces and common areas of the Hammer. But before you leave, there is another addition to explore:

The bank gallery: After viewing the exhibitions on Level 3, enter the elevators in the corner by the top of the stairs (the same temporary elevators you took to get to the Hammer during construction). From here, go down to Level L, where you'll enter the bank lobby. Walk across the front desk and through the double doors to see an installation by Rita McBride in the bank gallery and Sanford Biggers' 25-foot-tall "Oracle" on the new outdoor sculpture terrace.

The Hammer Museum is free and open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

— STEVEN VARGAS



JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED AT THE GRUNWALD

THE HAMMER'S EXPANSION FEATURES A STATE-OF-THE-ART STUDY ROOM FOR WORKS ON PAPER THAT HAS BECOME A RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS, CURATORS AND, SURPRISINGLY, PSYCHIATRY RESIDENTS

BY DEBORAH VANKIN

ABOUT A DOZEN UCLA students circle the room, riveted by two black and white Ruth Asawa prints. ¶ The artist was incarcerated, as a teen, in a Japanese American detention camp and the works she created tell a tragic story. Each depicts a man, cloaked in a robe, with an amulet around his neck. In one, his eyes are vacant and his expression is obscured by dark ink, suggesting a painful past. In the other, his eyes are piercing and his face luminescent, suggesting an open if optimistic future. ¶ The students lean in close, scrutinizing those and other Asawa works, which lie flat on a table, unframed, or are propped up against a wall. They scribble notes on a clipboard. It's silent but for the scritch-scratching of their pencil tips, their concentration nearly palpable. ¶ "They're so different, this one is so dark," one young woman says. ¶ "I think one is his internal representation, the other's his exterior," her friend replies. "The background, the stuff radiating, that could be his trauma."

This Asian American studies class is not taking place in a classroom or lecture hall, but rather in the university's Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts at the Hammer Museum. The students are delving into the renowned collection of prints to spark discussion about "activist legacies from the Japanese American incarceration and related wartime atrocities," as the course description reads.

The Grunwald collection includes more than 45,000 works on paper — primarily prints, but also drawings, photographs and artists' books — from the Renaissance to the present day. It's one of the largest collections of its kind on the West Coast, with strengths in European and American art as well as Japanese prints. While it has areas of great depth — including more than 7,000 prints by 19th century French caricaturist Honoré Daumier and 950 Japanese woodblock prints from the Edo and Meiji periods — the collection is notable mainly for its range. It represents artists working in diverse styles, with a variety of printmaking techniques, and addressing myriad topics over 500 years. So it's especially suited for study.

As part of the Hammer's two-decade, $90-million reinvention — the final phase of which debuts Sunday — the Grunwald Center now features a new, state-of-the-art study room and an adjacent gallery for works on paper. The gallery opened in February 2022 and the study room, which includes a high-density storage facility so that artworks can be kept practically within arm's reach, opened in fall 2022. One promotes the other: the study room is visible from the gallery, and vice versa, through an adjoining glass door.

It's an incredible resource — if you know it's there.

"That's the challenge — many people just don't know it exists," says Hammer Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs Cynthia Burlingham, who's also the Grunwald Center's longtime director.

Since debuting the new study room, the Hammer has made an increased effort to draw classes from the university — not just art history courses, but those tackling health and wellness, social justice and psychiatry. Curatorial fellow Jennie Waldow combs through the university's course catalog and reaches out to professors, citing artists and works that might fit with their syllabus. During class visits, she often gives lectures and offers supplemental handouts.

Doctors doing their residencies in psychiatry visited the center in the fall. They viewed historical depictions of incarceration, such as one by 19th century British caricaturist George Cruikshank and another by photographer Joel Snyder in the 1970s, as a way of better understanding mental illness and how it relates to the carceral system. A comparative literature class exploring concepts of health and illness looked at depictions of disease in the 1800s alongside the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s with works by Francisco de Goya, Cruikshank and David Wojnarowicz, respectively. A labor studies class studying work, social justice and arts examined a print by 20th century social realist Ben Shahn alongside Dorothea Lange's iconic "Migrant Mother, Nipomo, California" from 1936 and Walker Evans' photograph, from the same year, of an impoverished family in Alabama.

Burlingham says she could see the Grunwald Center also serving as a resource for young art collectors looking to hone their tastes or for Hollywood set and costume designers.

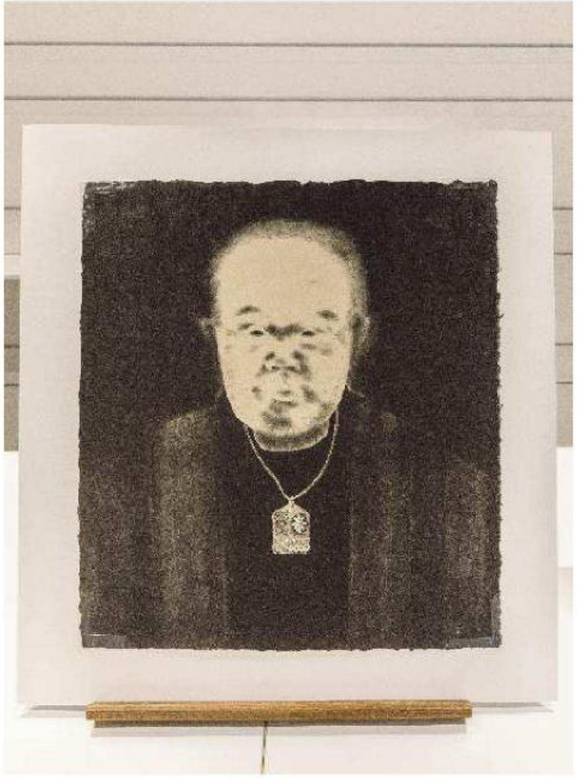
The study room is also open to members of the public, who can make free appointments to spend an hour or two with the art in an intimate setting. Museum staffers will pull specific works from storage for visitors who make arrangements in advance — a 17th century Rembrandt print? How about a 1970s artist book by Jasper Johns? Hammer staffers will lay them out and either discuss the works with guests or hang back and let visitors connect privately with the art.

The Grunwald Center was established by German émigré Fred Grunwald in 1956 with an eye toward being a resource for students and for research. Grunwald had lost his art collection, presumably to the Nazis, during World War II. He fled Wuppertal, Germany, for Los Angeles in 1939and later used reparations money he'd received to rebuild his art collection, ultimately amassing about 3,500 prints, most of which he gave to the Grunwald. After his death in 1964, his relatives continued to give to the collection over the decades. The Grunwald also ac-

Photographs by RICARDO DEARATANHA Los Angeles Times

GABRIEL NOGUEZ Hammer Museum at UCLA

THE HAMMER Museum's Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, a new study room and storage area, displays the artwork of Ruth Asawa, below.



RICARDO DEARATANHA Los Angeles Times

tively collects work, with 10 acquisitions funds.

The Hammer has housed, cared for and exhibited the Grunwald collection since UCLA took over operations of the museum in 1994 — both entities collect works on paper. Only a fraction of the Grunwald's expansive works can ever be exhibited at any given time, so the study room serves as a portal into the collection, an ever-evolving, interactive exhibition space.

Many of the works in the collection were created with the intent to be reproduced in newspapers, books and other periodicals, conveying events of the day. So together, the Grunwald collection reflects a kaleidoscopic prism of history, from different points around the globe, over five centuries.

"That's what art does," Burlingham says. "It can be documentation, or just an idea, or fantasy. But it's still related to our history and our world as it was and as it is. The collection serves as a deep resource for information and ideas."

Over the years, Burlingham says, museum curators have come to compare impressions of the same print in their collections, since no two prints are exactly alike. Staff members from institutions internationally have come to peruse the collection when looking for exhibition loans. A local chapter from the National Cartoonists Society came once, in 2011, to study early cartoonists and caricaturists.

"Sometimes we get family members that come to look at a work their deceased family member had donated," Burlingham says. "It's very sweet. Because there are legacies that live on here."

But the visitor experience was very different until recently. The previous two study rooms were smaller and didn't have adequate storage — they were off the beaten path, one in a foot-trafficky administrative area of the museum and the second in a storage area. The Grunwald works were dispersed across multiple sites around the building or in off-site storage. So pulling delicate works for visitors was more time-consuming.

The study rooms themselves could accommodate fewer people and showing work was more cumbersome. Heavy, framed works were displayed on gallery walls, so that visitors could view them, but the walls had to be patched and painted afterward.

The new study room is not only larger and better lit, but the temperature- and humidity-controlled storage area is on the other side of a wall. Ninety percent of the Grunwald collection is now stored all together there, along with smaller prints and drawings from the Hammer Contemporary Collection. (Larger works from both collections are stored off-site.) And there's room in storage for 20% expansion.

A more than 30-foot-long display wall, modeled on one in the print room at the Harvard Art Museums, has been a "game-changer," Burlingham says. It adds display flexibility. It has built-in grooves so that narrow shelves can be configured, at varying heights, to show works of different sizes. They can be propped up unframed, and framed works can be hung from a grid with hooks. There's also a long table that seats 18 onto which works can be laid out — the room can accommodate about 25 people. Felt strips on the ceiling help with sound absorption.

Light being the enemy of delicate works on paper, the study room has two sets of shades, translucent ones so that guests can view the works in flattering natural light for short periods of time, and blackout shades, which are drawn the rest of the time.

The museum is now working on digitizing the Grunwald collection as well as the Hammer Contemporary Collection — only a fraction of either is online — and, eventually, facilitating open hours for the study room, where visitors can just drop in.

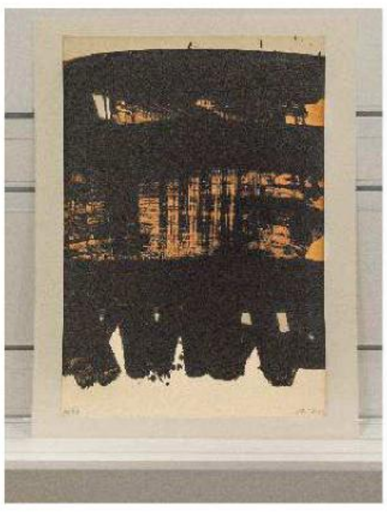
The works-on-paper gallery has so far exhibited only contemporary pieces from both the Grunwald and Hammer collections — currently it's showing a survey of drawings by British artist Bridget Riley — but there hasn't yet been an exhibition there that illuminates the historical depths of the Grunwald collection.

A collection-based exhibition is now in the works, focusing on intaglio prints from the Renaissance to the present, likely to open in December.

"I thought it would be a great time to show how far back the collection goes," Burlingham says. "Where you're going through the early 1500s, 1600s, 1700s, but also contemporary, and how artists have been continuously using that medium."

In the meantime, the Grunwald's study room provides a gateway to the collection.

"Anything that's small enough to be in this room," Burlingham says, "you can show without having to have an exhibition."



CURATORIAL ASSOCIATE Matthieu Vahanian, left, leads a talk on artist Pierre Soulages at the Grunwald Center, whose holdings include Soulages' 1969 "Lithograph No. 22."

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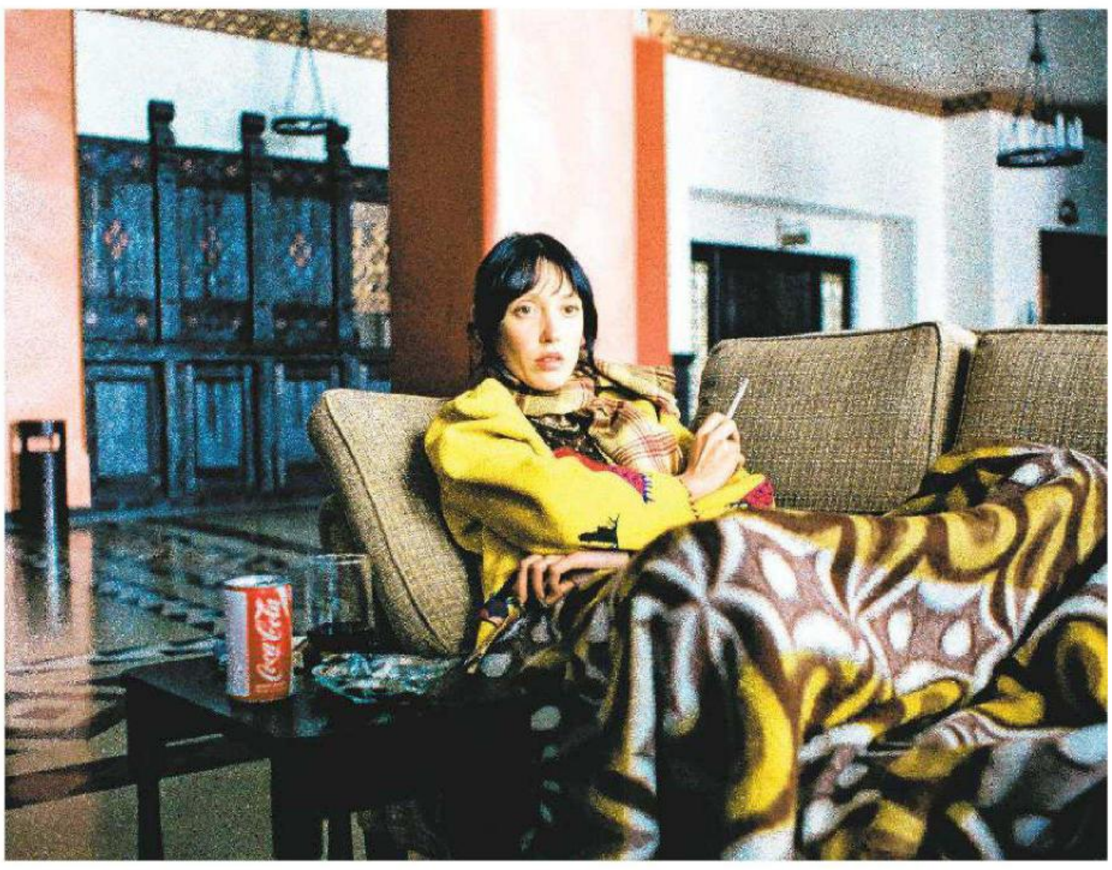
A 'SHINING' COLLECTOR'S DREAM

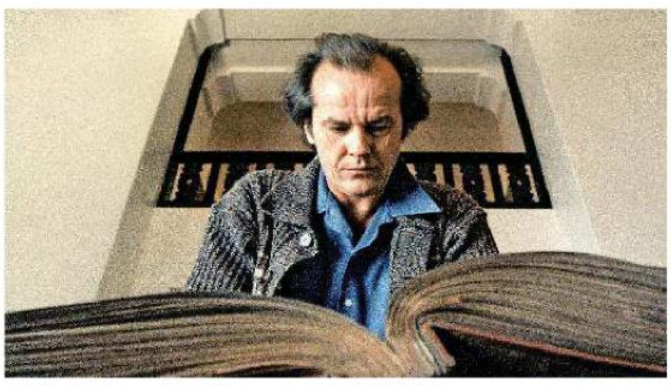
WAS IT REALLY ALL WORK AND NO PLAY DURING FILMING? A NEW BOX SET UNVEILS THE SECRETS OF KUBRICK'S 1980 CLASSIC.

BY CHARLES ARROWSMITH



Photographs from Warner Bros. / Stanley Kubrick Archive

I CAN'T DRIVE, so when I went to Oregon in 2016 I had to convince friends that borrowing a car to ascend Mt. Hood and see the Timberline Lodge would be "fun." If the name's unfamiliar, the hotel probably isn't: The Timberline is the model for the facade of the Overlook in Stanley Kubrick's horror classic "The Shining." It's where Jack Torrance (Jack Nicholson) takes a job as winter caretaker, accompanied by his wife (Shelley Duvall) and psychically gifted son (Danny Lloyd), and where, under the malevolent influence of the hotel, he tries to ax-murder his family. For me, if not for my friends, it was an exciting day. ¶ I'm not alone in my mania. Legion are the admirers of "The Shining," bewitched by its mysteries, all of which seem to encourage obsessive attention. Rodney Ascher and Tim Kirk's "Room 237" (2012) offered a glimpse into some of the more outré fan theories: Did Kubrick fake the moon landings? (No.) Is the film surreptitiously about the genocide of Native Americans? (Actually… maybe a bit.)



I recently spoke to someone whose love for "The Shining" leaves mine in the foothills. Lee Unkrich, the Oscar-winning director of "Toy Story 3" and "Coco," has been called "the world's foremost 'Shining' aficionado." He is the "caretaker" of a long-running Tumblr devoted to the film and now the author of "Stanley Kubrick's 'The Shining,' " the ultimate completists' guide to the film's lore and visual ephemera. Written with J.W. Rinzler, it draws on extensive interviews and archival research and is being released by Taschen as part of a lavish box set, with a 900-page "making of" as its centerpiece. (The collector's edition of this behemoth sells for $1,500 a pop, but based on the success of Taschen's other Kubrick books, it seems safe to predict a more affordable trade edition one day soon.)

Crammed with unseen materials and photographs — Unkrich estimates that 75% of the featured images, excluding film stills, will be new — this collector's dream sets a new high bar for Kubrick fetishism. Unkrich and I chatted ahead of its release, his enthusiasm undimmed even after a decade-plus writing the book and more than 40 years since he first checked in at the Overlook.

"I first saw 'The Shining' when I was 12 years old," Unkrich says. "I grew up with my mom taking me to see a lot of films that were probably too old for me."

For the imaginative only child of a "difficult marriage," the film struck a personal chord. He soon acquired the Stephen King book on which it's based and an obsession was born. But it wasn't just that he identified with the material. Kubrick, he suggests, *designed* "The Shining" to obsess. "There's an anecdote in the book that I love where Stanley has just finished a shot and he turns to a crew member and winks and says, 'Let the French film critics figure that one out.' "

STILLS of scenes that were cut from "The Shining" with Shelley Duvall, top, and Jack Nicholson. Stanley Kubrick and Duvall on set, above.

Kubrick is notorious for his perfectionism — "The Shining" holds the Guinness World Record for "most retakes for one scene with dialogue" — and the book is filled with tales of devotion (or submission) to his obsessive vision. "There are times you put Stanley first and you're second," says focus puller Douglas Milsome, whose hand once froze to the camera lens during filming. Even after the movie wrapped, Kubrick's personal assistant, Leon Vitali, traveled to Malta, where Duvall was filming "Popeye," to record some "wild track" for the snowball sequence — only for Kubrick to decide he didn't need it.

But it's Kubrick's relationship with Duvall that receives the most attention today. His daughter Vivian captured footage of them arguing in her 1980 documentary about "The Shining," and more recent talk of cruel behavior has cast a shadow over the film. But based on his interviews with people who were there, Unkrich says such rumors have been "exponentially exaggerated steadily over the years." Kubrick was happy for his clashes to appear in Vivian's documentary, he points out.

"It was right at the end of production, and everyone was crispy," Unkrich says. "Were there things done that maybe would not be OK, by today's standards? Yeah, probably. It was the late 1970s." (As recently as 2021, Duvall said Kubrick had been "very warm and friendly" to her.)

Preconceptions about Kubrick are challenged by other revelations in the book. "People put Stanley up on a pedestal as this brilliant filmmaker, which he of course was," Unkrich told me, "but they also imagine that every last thing was worked out ahead of time, and that he just then flawlessly executed these films. And that's not what happened."

As in Michael Benson's terrific "Space Odyssey," about the making of "2001," and Matthew Modine's "Full Metal Jacket Diary," readers will learn that Kubrick started shooting without a clear sense of how the film would end.

"He didn't even know he was going to have [psychic chef Dick] Hallorann killed until much later in production," Unkrich reveals. " I think that these stories … are emblematic and illustrative of something that really pierces the myth of Stanley Kubrick."

The process of writing the book was also long and occasionally rocky. Rinzler and Unkrich initially made two separate proposals to Kubrick's estate, but once introduced they quickly discovered they were "kindred spirits." Immersion in the Kubrick archive gave Unkrich a sense of the breadth of what they'd find, though it took many years to track down the dozens of people interviewed for the book, including Duvall, who hadn't acted since 2002, and Lloyd, by then a teacher in Kentucky.

It was Unkrich's relationship with Lloyd and his parents that led to the "mother lode" that sets the book apart from previous "Shining" analyses. Their family album, and hundreds of negatives from their basement, gave the writers a cache of material they'd never dreamed of ("my jaw hit the floor," recalls Unkrich). Other discoveries in the Kubrick archive included negatives from scenes later cut from the movie, such as a hospital-set epilogue briefly seen in early screenings but hand-excised from every print before the film was released nationwide. These images are just some of the book's major contributions to Kubrick studies.

The 12 years of the book's gestation have not been without sadness. Rinzler passed away in 2021. ("He will always be the Caretaker," Unkrich writes fondly in the acknowledgments.) Vitali, whose devotion to Kubrick was captured in the documentary "Filmworker," died last summer. "He'd been carrying the mantle of Stanley's wishes for so long," Unkrich recalls.

Kubrick died in 1999. Given his legendary attention to detail, it seems likely he'd have approved the methods that produced this new "Shining" history. And while this private man may have been less keen on such a guts-out examination of his process, he could surely have had no concerns regarding the sanctity of the film's mysteries. Despite all the revelations, for fans of "The Shining," it will never fully yield its secrets.

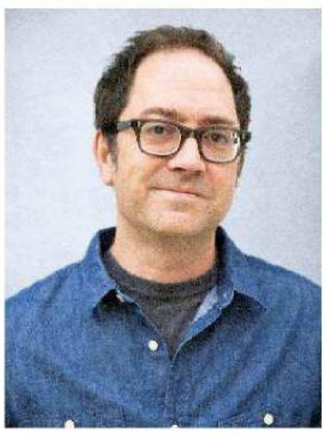
Arrowsmith is based in New York and writes about books, films and music.

L.A.'s 'patron saint of the displaced creative spirit'

BY CHRIS VOGNAR

TO READ Scott Timberg's newly published collection of essays, "Boom Times for the End of the World," is to experience both a rush of cultural stimulation and an overwhelming sense of sadness. Timberg, who loved Los Angeles and culture journalism with an intense passion, was among the essential chroniclers of the city. For New Times LA and then for the Los Angeles Times, he wrote of authors on the fringe and overlooked but vital corners of the city. Timberg drank up L.A.'s culture as only a thirsty outsider could (he was born in Palo Alto and raised in Maryland).

But his love wasn't always requited. Despite highly original work and glowing performance reviews, Timberg was laid off from The Times in 2008, part of a wave of cutbacks at the paper and in the industry that hit culture journalists particularly hard. He became a reluctant member of the gig economy, trying to make ends meet in a city that was and is, despite or perhaps because of its many charms, very expensive to call home. He tried moving to Athens, Ga., with his wife and son, but L.A. was in his blood and he soon returned. He found freelance work. His two books were well received. But he never got all the way back, financially or otherwise. He suffered from depression, and in 2019, he killed himself by jumping from a pedestrian bridge near downtown. He was 50.



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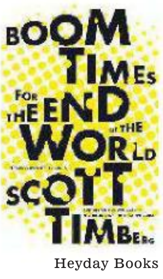


Heyday Books

SCOTT TIMBERG'S devotion to culture leaps out in essays.

"Scott was just so present, and then he exterminated himself," says Dana Gioia, former California poet laureate and a friend of Timberg for many years. "Why did he do that? Because the culture was exterminating too. He just went along with what the outer world was telling him."

"Boom Times" is both a celebration of a prodigious talent and a valediction for a lost soul. Timberg was drawn to subjects the average reader might not know, like John Rechy, the pugnacious, proudly narcissistic literary chronicler of L.A.'s gay subculture. "The novelist — whose small stature, impish smile, and barrel chest lend him the bearing of a well-exercised elf — treats writing like a big fight for which he's constantly training," he writes in the essay "The Romantic Egotist," originally published in the New Times. Or the great jazz photographer William Claxton, who "did more than shoot striking photographs of great musicians," Timberg writes in "Eye on Cool." "He created the visual reality of West coast jazz, a whole new way to picture the art." Timberg was one of those guys who could write knowledgeably about seemingly anything, though most of it was drenched in the culture of the city he loved.

I can relate to far too much of Timberg's tragedy. In 2019 I was laid off from my job as a culture critic for the Dallas Morning News, along with most of the arts staff. I felt discarded and expendable, tossed aside by an institution I had served with pride for many years. And then it just kept raining. My life partner, Kate, was diagnosed with a terminal brain illness; she would be dead within 18 months. I was enraged at the world, and my own depression became the dominant voice in my head. It never said nice things.

My life and my headspace got better with time, as did the flow of freelance work. But when I read Timberg, and when I read about him — it's with more than a passing sense of "There but for the grace of God go I."

There is a bigger story here, one that Timberg both lived and chronicled. His 2015 book "Culture Crash: The Killing of the Creative Class" is a personal but also analytical and deeply reported elegy for a certain kind of work and those who do it. Timberg isn't just talking about artists. As he writes in the "Boom Times" essay "Down We Go Together," adapted from the book, "A more useful understanding of the creative class would include anyone who helps create or disseminate culture. So along with sculptors and architects, I mean deejays, bookstore clerks, theater set designers, people who edit books in publishing houses, and so on."

He could have added culture journalists to the list. None of the above are extinct — yet. All have been dramatically marginalized by an increasingly automated society that purports to value culture but is decreasingly keen on spreading the good word, at least beyond the vogue for clickbait and shallow fandom.

Among Timberg's biggest admirers is Steve Wasserman, the publisher of Heyday Books, which put out "Boom Times" (he also published "Culture Crash" when he was at Yale University Press). Wasserman met Timberg when he left a New York publishing career to take over the Los Angeles Times' books coverage in 1996. He was promptly greeted with a Timberg piece in New Times, which asked, in Wasserman's paraphrase, "What the hell is this egghead doing coming into town, and why is he not doing as much as his critics think he should be doing to promote Los Angeles literature?"

From there, Wasserman says, "Scott and I became allies in the project to elevate the general level of literary conversation in Los Angeles, each from our own vantage points." They also became friends. So many who crossed Timberg's path became his friends.

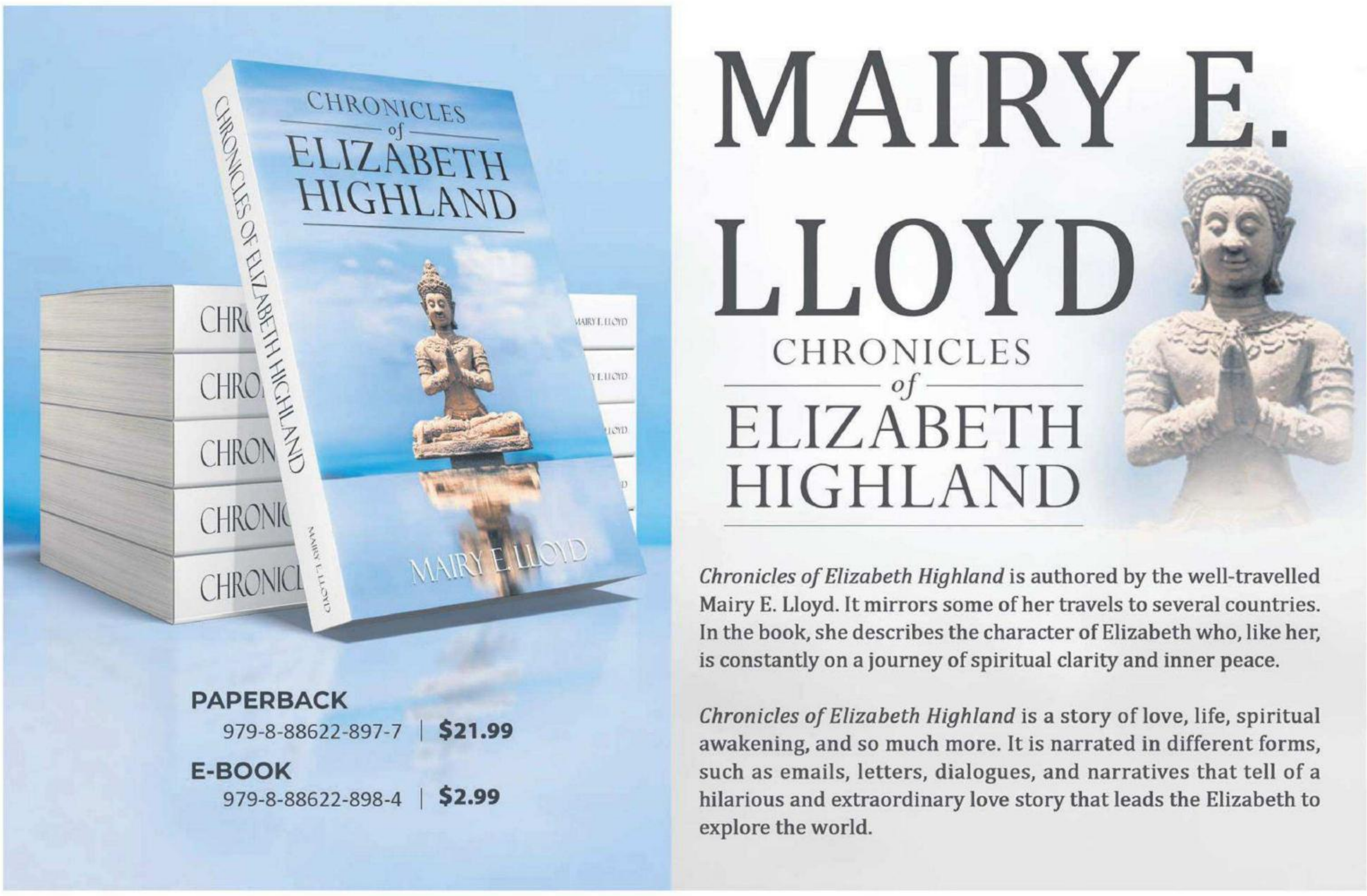
Wasserman remembers Timberg as a "patron saint of the displaced creative spirit." He also believes the city Timberg loved is much poorer without him.

"East Coast snobs always dismissed Los Angeles, claiming the endless sunshine had baked the brains of the inhabitants," Wasserman says. "Scott pushed back against that. He was a meteorologist who analyzed the shifts in the changing weather of the city's culture. By that measure, he was remarkably accurate in his reportage. He captured a city and its shifting moods and performed an invaluable service to his readers."

It's hard to consider Timberg's value to Los Angeles and not think of another late culture journalist, Jonathan Gold, the Pulitzer Prize-winning food and music critic for LA Weekly and the Los Angeles Times who died of pancreatic cancer in 2018. These were writers who peeled back reductive stereotypes of a city as culturally vibrant as any in the world. They did it with wit and verve. Mostly, though, they did it with love.

To read "Boom Times for the End of the World" is to experience that love anew — and to mourn the fact that Timberg is no longer here to feel it.

Vognar is a freelance writer based in Houston.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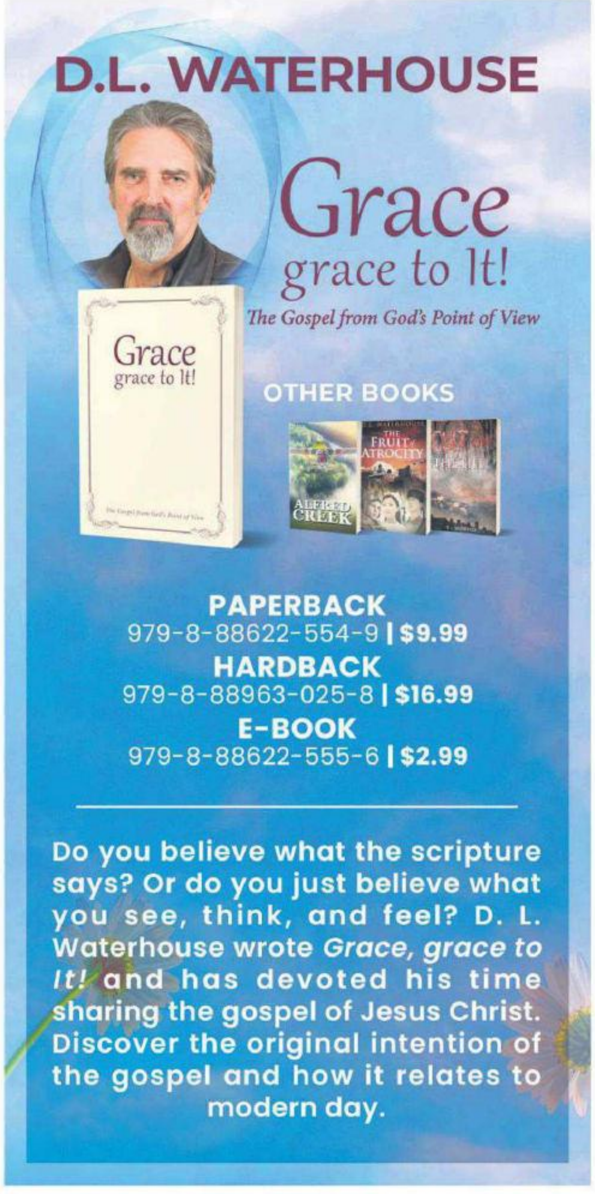
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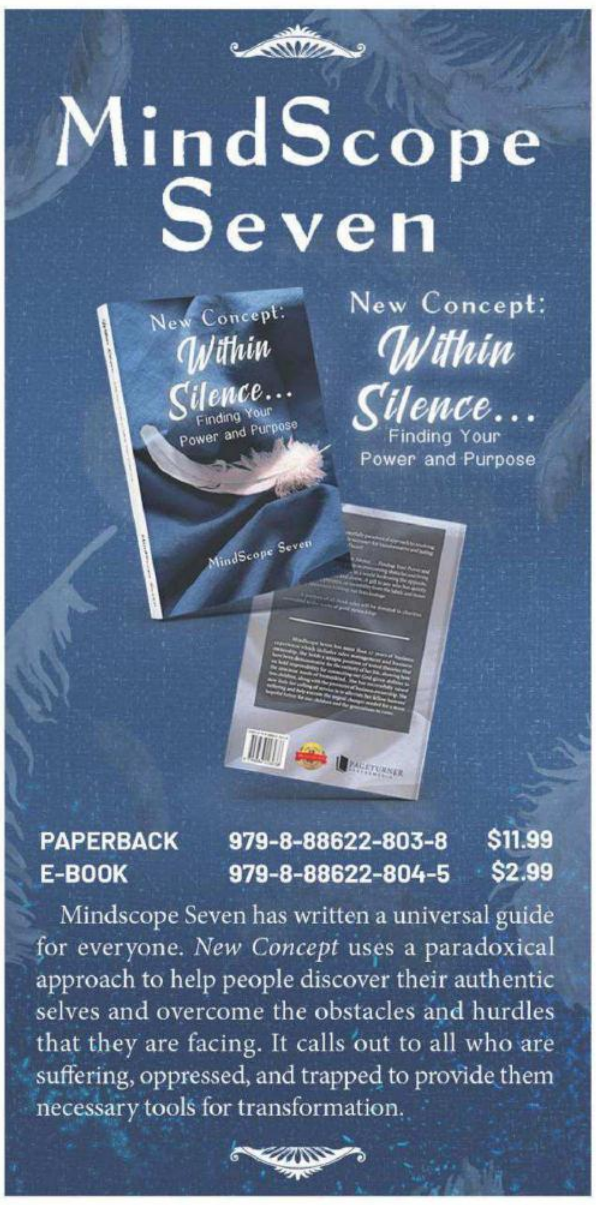
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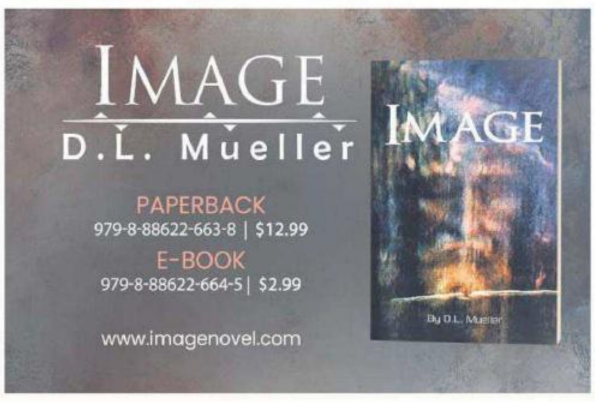
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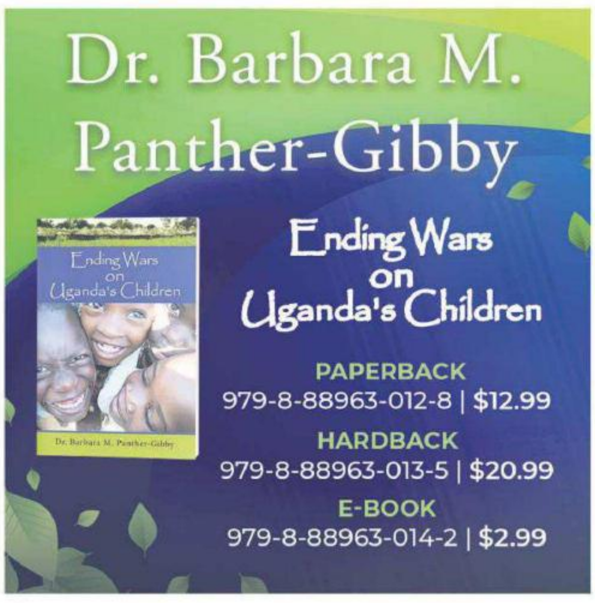
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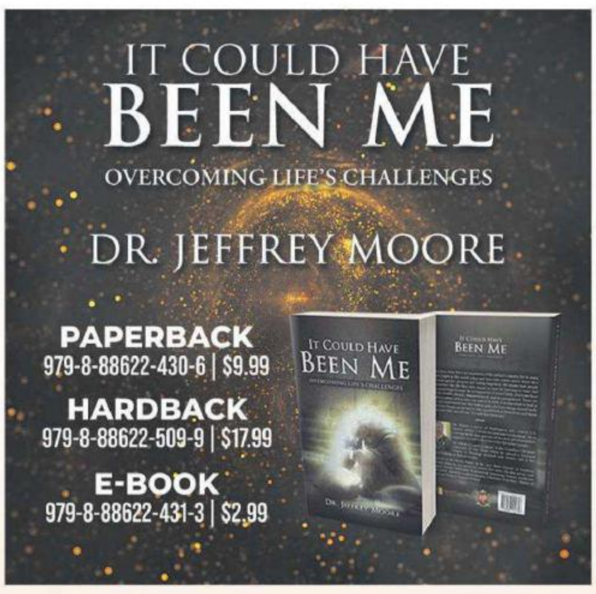

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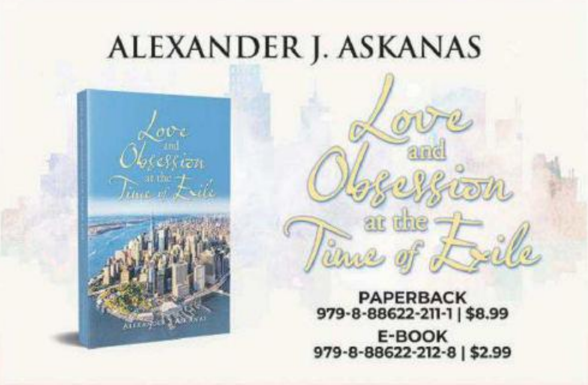
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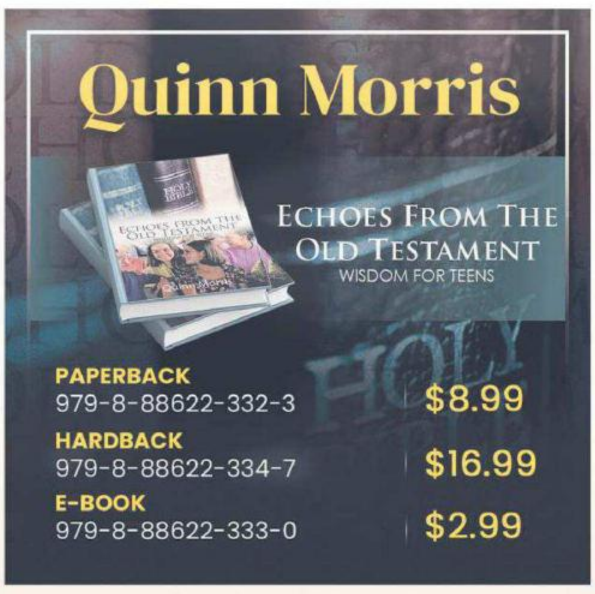
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L.A.'S skid row reflects the imbalances Matthew Desmond asks us to confront.

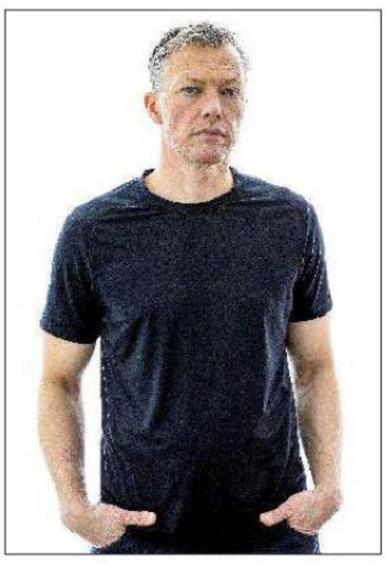
FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

'I want to end poverty'

MATTHEW DESMOND AIMS TO HELP US CHANGE OUR VIEWS ON AN AMERICAN CRISIS

BY MARISSA EVANS

WHEN MATTHEW DESMOND published his first book, "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City," in 2016, he set out to immerse himself in the everyday lives of people facing eviction. Along with a website, *justshelter.org*, his research has opened readers' eyes to just how many Americans are chronically on the verge of losing their homes. ¶ "Evicted" won a Pulitzer Prize, became a bestseller and was named among the New York Times' 10 best nonfiction books of the decade. But Desmond's new follow-up is even more ambitious. "Poverty, by America" tackles the societal, systemic, structural and institutional issues that perpetuate poverty at large. He puts a clear challenge to readers, prodding us to face the uncomfortable question of how we are all implicated. But he also proposes solutions: investing in more anti-poverty programs, stopping the exploitation of low-income workers, and embracing the idea that everyone can prosper. In tandem, Desmond is also launching a new website, *endpovertyusa.org*, that aims to connect people with more than 4,000 service providers, anti-poverty and legal aid organizations. ¶ Desmond spoke to The Times by phone about his new book — and the ways we can move the needle on poverty — for an interview that has been edited for length and clarity.



BARRON BIXLER

What was different about your writing and reporting process for this book as compared with "Evicted"?

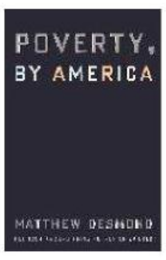
I was reading ["There There"] by Tommy Orange and ran across this sentence where he says, "These kids are jumping out of burning buildings, and falling to their deaths and we think that the problem is they are jumping." That's a perfect encapsulation of the U.S. poverty debate. I want to write a book about the fire — about who lit it, who's warming their hands by it, and so I think that meant writing a different style of book. I really believe in the power of narrative, the power of bearing witness, but I think for this book, and the question that I was trying to get after, I wanted to move the camera aperture.

What was the biggest misconception you had about poverty before writing this book?

One of the things that blew me away was how utterly imbalanced our welfare state is — and I've been on the housing beat for several years. Something I always used to bring up was the difference between the amount of money we spend on the mortgage interest deduction versus direct housing assistance to families that need it the most. Last year, I think something like $53 billion went into every single affordable housing program we have. But the country spent about $193 billion on homeowner tax subsidies and most of that money goes to families with six-figure incomes. This idea that we spend so much more subsidizing affluence versus alleviating poverty really just bowled me over.

Would you say it's more difficult to ask for help or to get help in America?

They're both hard. One of the crazy things that I learned is just how much low-income folks are leaving on the table in social programs that are designed to help. The "why" isn't just about stigma. It doesn't even seem to be primarily about stigma. It seems to be that we've made these programs unnecessarily complicated and hard to apply for. But it also is hard to ask for help. When I look at other social movements, I'm jealous about the pride people take in identities that movements have been based around. There's Black Lives Matter signs. There's gay rights flags. But a lot of poverty in America is still so incredibly stigmatized that a lot of folks that are under the [poverty] line don't want to accept that as their identity.



Crown

"IT'S not really a book about the poor," says Desmond of his latest.

What are some ways you found you're implicated in the poverty system?

One way I'm implicated is I'm a homeowner. My family takes a mortgage interest deduction. I have said publicly, and I'm saying to you, again, I don't want this thing. Does it spur homeownership? No, there's no evidence that it does. It just makes homes like the kind that I own worth more. I would love to see more of us who benefit from tax breaks to really push back against them.

It's caused us to think about our consumer choices, where we're shopping, where we're buying, what companies we're supporting. And that takes a lot of homework. Thinking about shopping a little slower, more deliberately, making sure we're not supporting corporations that have a track record of union busting and then joining poverty movements and volunteering and giving to them. I love this question because I think that it's the move this book is trying to get us all to consider. I think we're all connected to this.

How do we get people to have better conversations about poverty?

It's interesting to me to meditate on this idea of: Do people believe stories that we've told ourselves about the poor for years, or are those stories just convenient ways to avoid the problem? It's a book about poverty, but it's not really a book about the poor. This is a book about the decisions that many of us in our daily lives and certainly decisions that our government has made — and our corporations have made — to allow and perpetuate all this poverty in this land. It's an ambitious book. I want to end poverty. I don't want to reduce it, I want to abolish it. I don't want to treat it, I want to cure it. I think that ambition is something that is missing a lot from the poverty debate.

One of the obstacles to addressing poverty is the discomfort many people have around it. How do we navigate that?

I think that *should* discomfort us much more than it does. I think that we should be ashamed about that. We get in our nice cars, and we go on the freeway, and we drive past tent encampments and we make our homes bigger, and we defund public housing and we defund public infrastructure. And this is why poverty diminishes us all. It drags us all down. The presence of the tents reminds us that the country hasn't fulfilled its promise and that we're implicated in that. We go out to eat. Are the people that are working here paid adequately, are they being taken care of? We spend the night at a hotel. We have no idea if the people that are changing our sheets are protected, if they have a living wage. I think that an America that ends poverty is an America that confronts those issues.

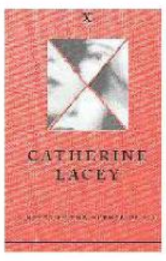
What scares you the most, having written this book?

I'm scared that people will read it and they'll say, "Oh man, that's something," and they'll go on with their life. That's what I'm really scared about. I'm scared that it'll be another thing that elicits a sigh. I'd like it to be something that elicits "No, enough" — something that elicits us to move.

STEP ASIDE, LYDIA TÁR. 'X' REVEALS THE ULTIMATE ART MONSTER

BY JESSICA FERRI

WILLY SOMMA



FSG

THE hidden, deceptive life of a late artist animates Catherine Lacey's fourth novel.

AT THE BEGINNING of the film "Tár," the titular character, a famous female conductor played by Cate Blanchett, tells the New Yorker's Adam Gopnik (playing himself) that sexism has never been a problem for her. "I really have nothing to complain about," she says, seeing herself as above mundane things like misogyny and cancel culture. Not so fast, Lydia Tár.

"Tár" reminds us that we have labored through #MeToo and #cancelculture and now we find ourselves on the other side. What if our world were slightly different? What if the fulcrum were lifted and set back down just a few degrees to the left? Catherine Lacey's new novel, "Biography of X," gives us an idea what this brave new world might look like.

Angered by an unauthorized biography of her late wife, X, journalist C.M. Lucca decides to write her own biography. The result is the book we hold in our hands, with an authentic-seeming title page, copyright page and notes. X is pure fiction — imagine Marina Abramovic crossed with Elena Ferrante. But real writers, including Merve Emre, Renata Adler and Durga Chew-Bose, appear in its pages. Poet Frank O'Hara survives being run over by a Jeep on a beach in 1966. Brian Eno is "Brianna" and Rachel Cusk turns into "Richard Cusk." X has a lengthy love affair with Connie Converse, a real singer-songwriter who vanished in 1974, and Carla Lonzi, a real Italian feminist art critic who died in 1982.

"Biography of X" takes place in a recently reunified United States. X was born in the ST, or Southern Territory, an ultra-conservative Christo-fascist regime. Married and a young mother, X escapes to the free North through a series of cons and disguises, bringing a whole new meaning to Joan Didion's assertion that we "tell ourselves stories in order to live." Those stories, and those people, become X and her art. In her biography, Lucca wonders: Who is the real X? Does she exist?

The problem with writing X is that all the discoveries Lucca makes bring her no closer to her art monster wife. (In her 2014 novel, "Dept. of Speculation," Jenny Offill writes of her intention to become an "art monster." "Women almost never become art monsters because art monsters only concern themselves with art, never mundane things.")

In X's world, sexism has been all but eradicated thanks to the "Painters Massacre of 1943," in which 14 male artists, including "Marcel Duchamp, Alexander Calder, Wassily Kandinsky, and Jackson Pollock," were murdered. The idea that a white, cis-gendered man might have something to say, or to express it artistically, is laughable. "Male artists pursued careers with the burden of explaining or accounting for the global history of male violence and destruction; that is — men could only make work about being men," Lucca tells us. "Few took on the task, and those who did were often ridiculed."

This is Lacey's fourth novel. Her first, "Nobody Is Ever Missing," tells of a woman's journey to escape the memory of her dead sister. "The Answers" is a tale about precarity and technology. In her last novel, "Pew," a genderless alien shows up in a small religious town. But in its boldness of premise and execution, "Biography of X" goes above and beyond, under the river and through the woods. It flaunts world-building skills that the writers of HBO's "Game of Thrones" wish they'd had.

At first read, Lacey's dedication to the bizarro-world reality of this novel was irksome. I was more interested in her sentences: "Her adoration had a way of leading my blood around in my body like an obedient dog"; "Beware of anything that you hear yourself saying too often"; "The price of having an identity is the inability to transform it"; "New lovers are always digging their graves and lying down, smiling, scooping the dirt in with their clean hands." I found myself yearning for more of X and Lucca. I didn't care about the fact that X may have been a spy for the Northern Territory or that she had collaborated with David Bowie.

What possessed Lacey to invent all this detail? It's like Margaret Mitchell in "Gone With the Wind" spending a hundred pages on Confederate troop movements when the reader wishes she'd just get back to Scarlett and Melanie. A short novella on Lucca's grief and her struggle to understand X would have been just as transfixing — even if, at the end of the book, she had discovered nothing about her. A novella about grief, about love.

But the ending of this novel changed my thinking and confirmed that Lacey is one of the most fearless novelists writing today. X is clear about one thing: "I want something palpable and beautiful . . . But nothing a human can do is palpable. The history of art is women consoling each other in the face of this fact . . . The idea of getting somewhere with love is even more frustrating and futile than the idea of getting somewhere with art."

Critics of "Tár" have said Blanchett should be ashamed of herself for playing a monstrous woman, someone who gives a bad name to U-Haul lesbians and female conductors everywhere. Blanchett responded: "It's a meditation on power. And power is genderless."

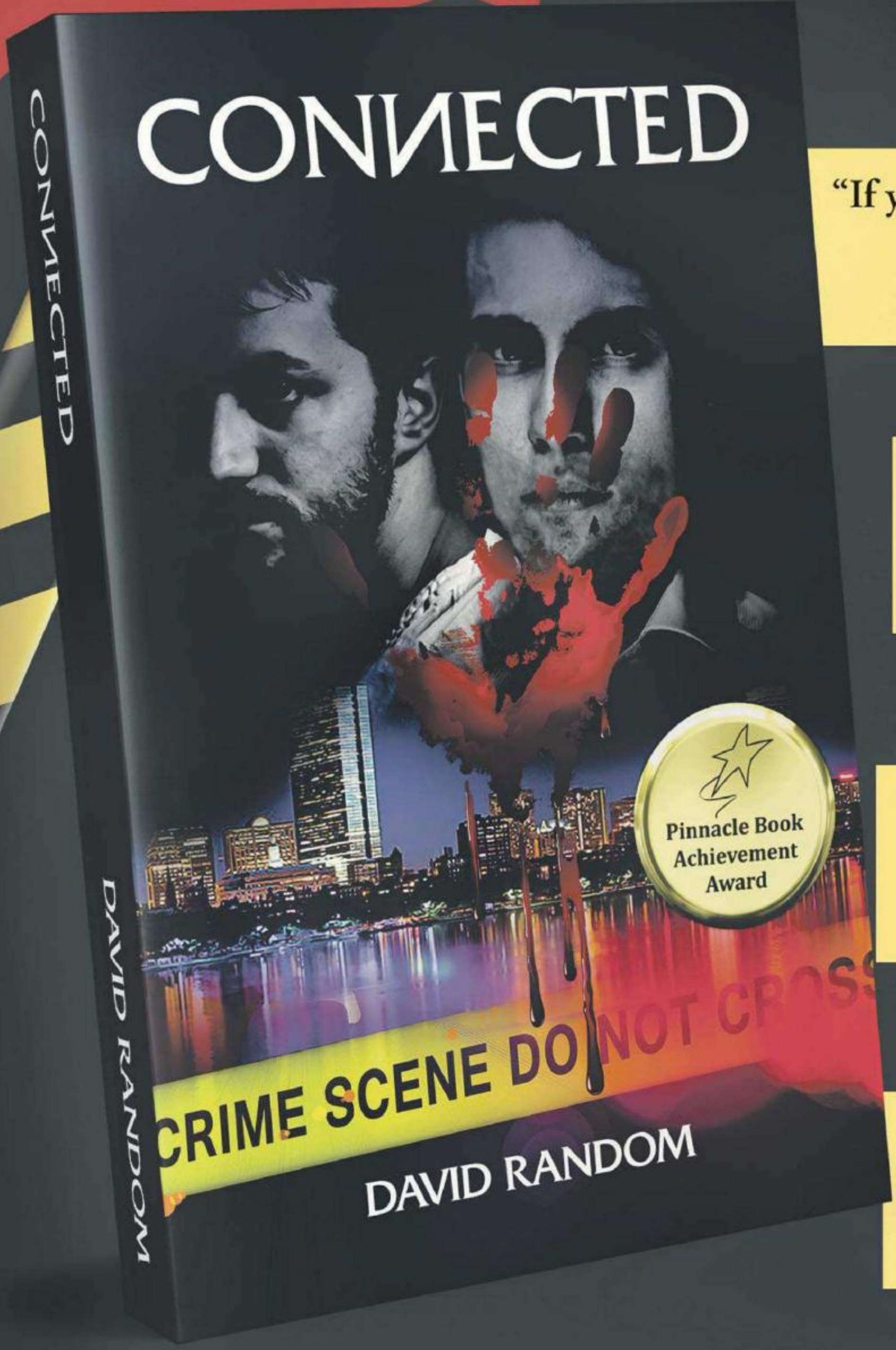
"Biography of X" is also about power. The climax of the book, what Lucca discovers, is not to be shared in this review. But it is the recognizable nightmare of anyone who has loved an art monster. More terrifying and tantalizing is the message such parallel worlds send to art monsters themselves. Lacey asks, what happens when we don't choose love?

Tár tells Gopnik that her choice of Mahler's Fifth is a choice for "love." Anyone who watches this film knows that couldn't be further from the truth. Much to Lucca's dismay, it is X's choice too. The choice is art. And that choice is about power.

Ferri is the owner of Womb House Books and the author, most recently, of "Silent Cities San Francisco."

CONNECTED

by DAVID RANDOM


CONNECTED
CONNECTED
Pinnacle Book Achievement Award
CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS
DAVID RANDOM
DAVID RANDOM

"If you're into uncommon tales told well, by all means get *Connected*."
- Pacific Book Review

"*Connected* is a wholly absorbing and spellbinding mystery from the start."
- Clarion Review

"...like the best of mystery writers, he definitely has surprises in store. Don't miss this one."
- US Review of Books

"A winning twin spin that combines an ethical conundrum with a police procedural."
- Kirkus Review

"...a work of fiction that aims to push the genre of crime-writing into the future."
- Hollywood Book Reviews

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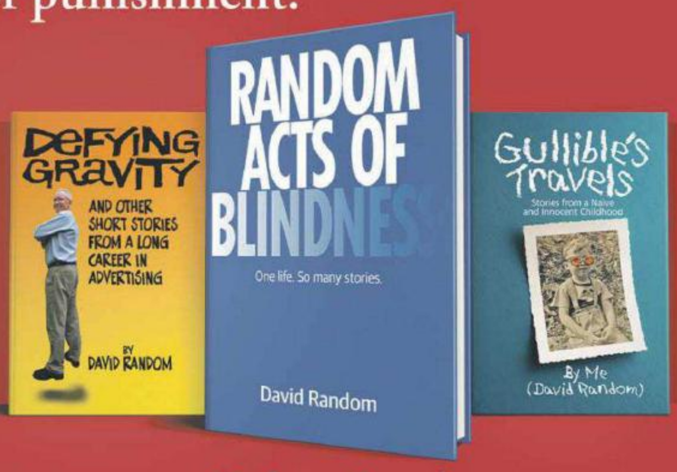
David Random's award-winning crime novel, *Connected*, is about to become a Hollywood film, and will soon have audiences enthralled as they try to predict how the unprecedented plot can possibly be resolved. The story begins with a murder in which the killer's brother comes forward as an eyewitness and the killer confesses. The two, however, are conjoined twins, and the frustrated legal system is at a loss as to how to prosecute a murderer whose physical connection to his apparently innocent brother precludes any form of punishment.

Critics have compared David Random to Stieg Larsson, author of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, whose crime novel was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film. *Connected* is expected to begin production later this year.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BESTSELLERS

Fiction

weeks on list

1. **Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow** by Gabrielle Zevin (Knopf: $28) Lifelong BFFs collaborate on a video game. 37
2. **I Have Some Questions for You** by Rebecca Makkai (Viking: $28) A professor of film, who's also a podcaster, returns to her boarding school and gets drawn into an investigation of a murder that occurred there when she was a student. 4
3. **Hello Beautiful** by Ann Napolitano (Dial: $28) A college student from a home broken by tragedy falls in love with a woman who has strong bonds with her sisters. 1
4. **Demon Copperhead** by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper: $33) The story of a boy born into poverty to a teenage single mother. 22
5. **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus (Doubleday: $29) In the 1960s, a female chemist goes on to be a single parent, then a celebrity chef. 47
6. **Pineapple Street** by Jenny Jackson (Pamela Dorman: $28) Old-money wealth gets a once-over in a novel following three women. 2
7. **Old Babes in the Wood** by Margaret Atwood (Doubleday: $30) A collection of short stories. 2
8. **Before the Coffee Gets Cold** by Toshikazu Kawaguchi (Hanover Square: $20) A Tokyo cafe gives customers the chance to travel back in time. 1
9. **Birnam Wood** by Eleanor Catton (FSG: $28) A New Zealand environmental collective forms an alliance with an American billionaire. 2
10. **Remarkably Bright Creatures** by Shelby Van Pelt (Ecco: $28) A giant Pacific octopus bonds with a widowed worker at a Washington State aquarium. 4

Nonfiction

weeks on list

1. **The Creative Act** by Rick Rubin (Penguin: $32) How to be a creative person. 9
2. **I'm Glad My Mom Died** by Jennette McCurdy (Simon & Schuster: $28) A memoir from the TV star. 31
3. **The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse** by Charlie Mackesy (HarperOne: $23) A modern fable explores life's universal lessons. 94
4. **Atomic Habits** by James Clear (Avery: $27) A guide to building good habits. 50
5. **Enchantment** by Katherine May (Riverhead: $26) The author takes readers on her journey to discover what was missing from her life. 3
6. **Saving Time** by Jenny Odell (Random House: $29) New ways to experience time. 2
7. **Unscripted** by James B. Stewart, Rachel Abrams (Penguin: $32) The battle for control of a multibillion-dollar entertainment empire. 5
8. **Spare** by Prince Harry the Duke of Sussex (Random House: $36) A memoir from the British royal. 10
9. **Ugly-Cute** by Jennifer McCartney (Harper: $15) A look at animals that are unattractive (to humans). 1
10. **The Greatness Mindset** by Lewis Howes (Hay House: $27) A self-help guide to living your best life. 2

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Southern California bestsellers from CALIBA

Joselyn Takacs

TROUBLE finds the young men in Taylor Koekkoek's short stories.

The unusual story of a very offline talent

TAYLOR KOEKKOEK FLIES UNDER THE RADAR WITH A REMARKABLE DEBUT COLLECTION

BY JIM RULAND

Simon & Schuster

I HAD JUST crossed the border from Washington to Oregon when the snow began to fall. ¶ Renting a car in Seattle and driving down to interview Taylor Koekkoek, the author of the stunning debut short-story collection "Thrillville, USA," seemed like a good idea back in sunny Southern California. ¶ But by the time I reached Portland, the snowstorm was approaching blizzard conditions, swirling around the towering pine trees and blanketing the highway. The map on my iPhone lit up with traffic accidents. My mini-SUV shivered like a Chihuahua when trucks roared through the storm. A prudent driver would pull over and scrap the interview; a reckless one would keep going.

It's the kind of dilemma the characters in Koekkoek's stories often face, where one bad decision cascades into an avalanche of regret: doing opiates while working at a sketchy roadside carnival, letting a complete stranger park a borrowed van, taking a group of pilots-in-training out for a night of drinking on the eve of an important test.

In his blurb for the book, legendary short-story writer Wells Tower praises Koekkoek's "painful tales of calamity and waywardness" — a situation I now found relatable.

It was these stories that pushed me to seek out Koekkoek in the flesh. A Google search reveals very little about the writer: a few published stories, no social media trail, author bios at a handful of universities that feature the same photo of an amiable-looking young white man in a Hawaiian shirt. If one were to make up an identity for a fictitious writer, the results would resemble something like the sum total of Koekkoek's online experience.

His publications, however, are legit. The Los Angeles Review, Ploughshares, the Paris Review. How was it that, in this age of relentless self-promotion and branding, someone who wrote stories of such uncommon brio operated almost completely under the radar?

I finally reached Koekkoek's address several hours late. His name (pronounced Cook-cook) is Dutch, he explained after welcoming me into the home he recently bought with his wife, the writer Joselyn Takacs, but he has no idea what it means.

Although he lives about a mile from his childhood home, Koekkoek took a wayward path to becoming a published writer. After taking a single creative writing course at the University of Oregon in Eugene, he was torn between getting an MFA in creative writing and becoming a lawyer.

Much to his surprise, he was accepted into the highly competitive MFA program at Johns Hopkins University. "I decided to go where the real money's at," Koekkoek joked. He conceded he would have been a terrible lawyer. "I would have hated it."

At Hopkins, he studied with the writer Eric Puchner, who was impressed with Koekkoek's mindset. "[H]e was willing to go back and just keep revising and revising and revising," Puchner said over the phone. "The students … who have gone on to become writers and publish books aren't necessarily the most blindingly talented; they're just the most dogged and are able to steel themselves against rejection."

Koekkoek's writing steadily improved during his time at Hopkins, Puchner said, imbuing stories with his own experiences in Oregon. "I saw his work go from being hilariously satirical to something that actually could move somebody. It was kind of a dramatic transformation."

Koekkoek was a bit more subdued about his development: "I think a lot of us have that stage where you've read a little too much Hemingway."

Next, he moved to Bend, Ore., where he lived with his twin brother. "I didn't have a real direction," he recalled. "I was flailing about. I was making questionable decisions." It was during this period that Koekkoek wrote the collection's title story, "Thrillville, USA," which is based on an actual amusement park in the town of Turner, Ore. He and his brothers had fond childhood memories of visiting Thrill-Ville, which shut down in 2008.

"It had a bunch of janky roller coasters and spinning things," Koekkoek recollected. "We loved it because it felt dangerous."

For as long as he could remember, there were rumors about kids flying off roller coasters and getting killed at Thrill-Ville, but he couldn't find evidence of any fatalities. He became obsessed with accident reports from Disneyland and other major amusement parks. "Nobody ever dies in Disneyland — which doesn't mean people don't die there," he explained — or alleged. "It just means they don't declare them dead until they've moved their body off the grounds."

The story is a compendium of amusement park horrors overseen by drugged-out carnies: "The previous season a heavy drunk managed to launch himself from the Magic Carpet Slide, then plummeted a floor and a half down to a concrete walkway. We didn't think that was even possible, but then the guy came soaring overhead with his shirt off. Cracked his pelvis clean through. Messed his pants on impact, instantaneously."

While Takacs was getting her PhD in creative writing at USC, Koekkoek would visit her. This resulted in the L.A. story "Dirtnap," which anyone who has felt defeated by the city's byzantine parking regulations will appreciate. While struggling to park his girlfriend's roommate's van, the protagonist accepts the aid of a passerby, who promptly drives off with the vehicle. The narrator makes the situation worse by lying about it, turning a clever plot element into an emotionally fraught moment — and a study in surprising consequences.

Koekkoek flirted with academia while living for a time in New Orleans and Virginia. But back in Portland, he has no plans to return to teaching. His path to publication was equally haphazard. While attending Bread Loaf Writers' Conference as a waiter work-scholar — a program that was discontinued in 2019 — he attracted the attention of the agent Henry Dunow, who eventually took him on as a client.

After they developed the collection and went out with it, Simon & Schuster editor Sean Manning was charmed by its stories of young men who find themselves in predicaments whose solution may be obvious to the reader but not to the protagonists.

"The overarching malaise that this collection gets at typifies contemporary America in the 2020s," Manning said via telephone, "but no matter how grotesque or violent the situation these characters find themselves in, ultimately there's a goodness that each one of them seems to possess."

It's true that Koekkoek's stories are like a microcosm of our era: Old ways of understanding the world are pitilessly dismantled, challenging the characters to find new approaches to their problems — except none of it happens online. Was Manning leery of Koekkoek's lack of engagement with social media?

"I thought that was really kind of refreshing," Manning said. "The disparity between what one would expect a young writer to be — super online and overly self-promotional — and somebody who just doesn't seem to be all that interested in that kind of thing."

After we completed the interview, Koekkoek checked the weather reports on his phone. The snow was piling up on his porch, burying my rental.

"I have a guest bedroom," Koekkoek said ominously, "but if you want to get back to Seattle tonight, your window of opportunity is shrinking."

I said my goodbyes, brushed the snow off my mini-SUV and cranked up the defroster. I barreled out of the bowl at the bottom of the street, passing cars that were sliding or stuck. For a while I followed a fool riding an electric scooter and I felt like a character in one of Koekkoek's stories. When I finally made it to the relative safety of the highway, I thought of the end of his story "The Flight Instructor," in which the narrator trudges through a blizzard on foot:

"The snow was up almost to my knees, and the icy top layer made it hell to get through, breaking through again and again each step. I felt it in my hip flexors and faintly in my conscience, because like anyone else, I always feel sad to ruin fresh snow."

Ruland's new novel, "Make It Stop," will be published next month by Rare Bird Lit.

TV THIS WEEK

By Matt Cooper

SUNDAY

"Great Expectations" (Hulu): Dickens' classic coming-of-age tale is adapted into a new miniseries. With Fionn Whitehead and Olivia Colman.

"Rabbit Hole" (Paramount+): "24's" Kiefer Sutherland is back on the clock in this new espionage drama.

"Mark Twain Prize for American Humor" (CNN, 5 p.m.): Adam Sandler is feted by his comedy peers at this year's ceremony.

"Eva Longoria: Searching for Mexico" (CNN, 7 p.m.): The "Desperate Housewives" actor hosts this new travelogue.

"Ride" (Hallmark, 9 p.m.): Saddle up! Nancy Travis stars as the matriarch of a rodeo family in this new drama.

"Succession" (HBO, 9 p.m.): The Emmy-winning drama is back for a fourth and final season.

"Yellowjackets" (Showtime, 9 p.m.): They're not out of the woods yet as this mystery drama returns for Season 2.

MONDAY

"The Young and the Restless 50th Anniversary Celebration" (CBS, 8 p.m.): The daytime drama marks a milestone in this new special.

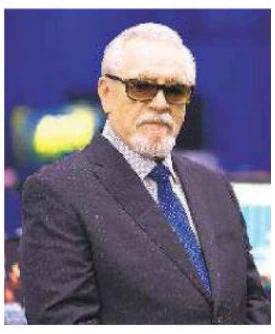
"The Bachelor" (ABC, 8 p.m.): Zach makes his selection in the competition's season finale.

"The 2023 iHeartRadio Music Awards" (Fox, 8 p.m.): Pink and Taylor Swift are singled out for special honors at this year's ceremony.

"Independent Lens" (KOCE, 10 p.m.): Two young women in China push back against traditional gender roles in "Hidden Letters."

TUESDAY

"Finding Your Roots With Henry Louis Gates, Jr." (KOCE, 8 p.m.): Journalists Jim Acosta and Van Jones explore their family histories.



Macall Polay HBO

BRIAN COX stars in "Succession" on HBO.

"American Experience" (KOCE, 9 p.m.): A new episode details how antiwar protests in 1969 helped derail President Nixon's plans to escalate the conflict in Vietnam.

WEDNESDAY

"Riverdale" (The CW, 9 p.m.): It ain't exactly happy days as the gang finds itself stranded in the 1950s in the drama's Season 7 premiere.

THURSDAY

Baseball (Fox Sports West, 7 p.m.; SportsNet LA, 7 p.m.) Opening Day matchups include the Angels vs. the A's and the Dodgers vs. the D-backs.

FRIDAY

"Joni Mitchell: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song" (KOCE, 9 p.m.): The beloved singer-songwriter is feted by James Taylor, et al.

SATURDAY

NCAA College Basketball Tournament (CBS, 3 p.m.): The Final Four face off in Houston.

"Love in the Maldives" (Hallmark, 8 p.m.): A travel writer gets busy at a tropical resort in this new TV movie.

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FEEDBACK

The rock star conundrum

Regarding "U2 Is Still Out There Looking" [March 16]: The problem with great bands who become rock stars is the business apparatus of the label that tries to milk every dollar out of such stardom.

U2 took over the world with seminal tracks such as "With or Without You," "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" and "Sunday Bloody Sunday."

They became obsessed about being popular, hence the "Pop Tour," which gave me chills, in a bad way, when announced. Something and somebody's got to pay for the mega mansions.

Michele Castagnetti
Los Angeles

Wide world of the Oscars

The Oscars may have made a misstep in not casting more South Asian dancers onstage ["Oscars Made a Misstep, Dancers Say," March 17], but for me and my friends it was our first introduction to Indian folk dancing.

As a result, I have been streaming Bollywood films all week long.

Randy Farhi
Los Angeles

::

Thanks for your spread of articles and photos on the Oscars, starting with Justin Chang candidly sorting out what's what in all the prizes for "Everything Everywhere All at Once."

Thanks especially for Mark Olsen's "Year of the Comeback" highlighting the fact that the awards for acting all went to veteran actors including the remarkable Ke Huy Quan who pointed out that his long journey to the world stage of the Academy Awards began with him in a boat.

Lastly, thank you for the backstage photo of Jamie Lee Curtis, Oscar in hand, breaking down. I'm near her age and can't tell why great and unexpected blessings make me weep. Maybe it has to do with the holding-our-breath some of us older people do, then something amazing suddenly comes around and our initial involuntary reaction is to catch up some on deep breathing.

Jill Peacock
Santa Barbara

WAKE UP AMERICA!

Let me remind you that the only country that produces fresh water from the sea is Saudi Arabia! Remember, the Atlantic has an overabundance of water. So let's wake up America!

CHARLIE PEDERSEN
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Los Angeles Times
WEEKEND
SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

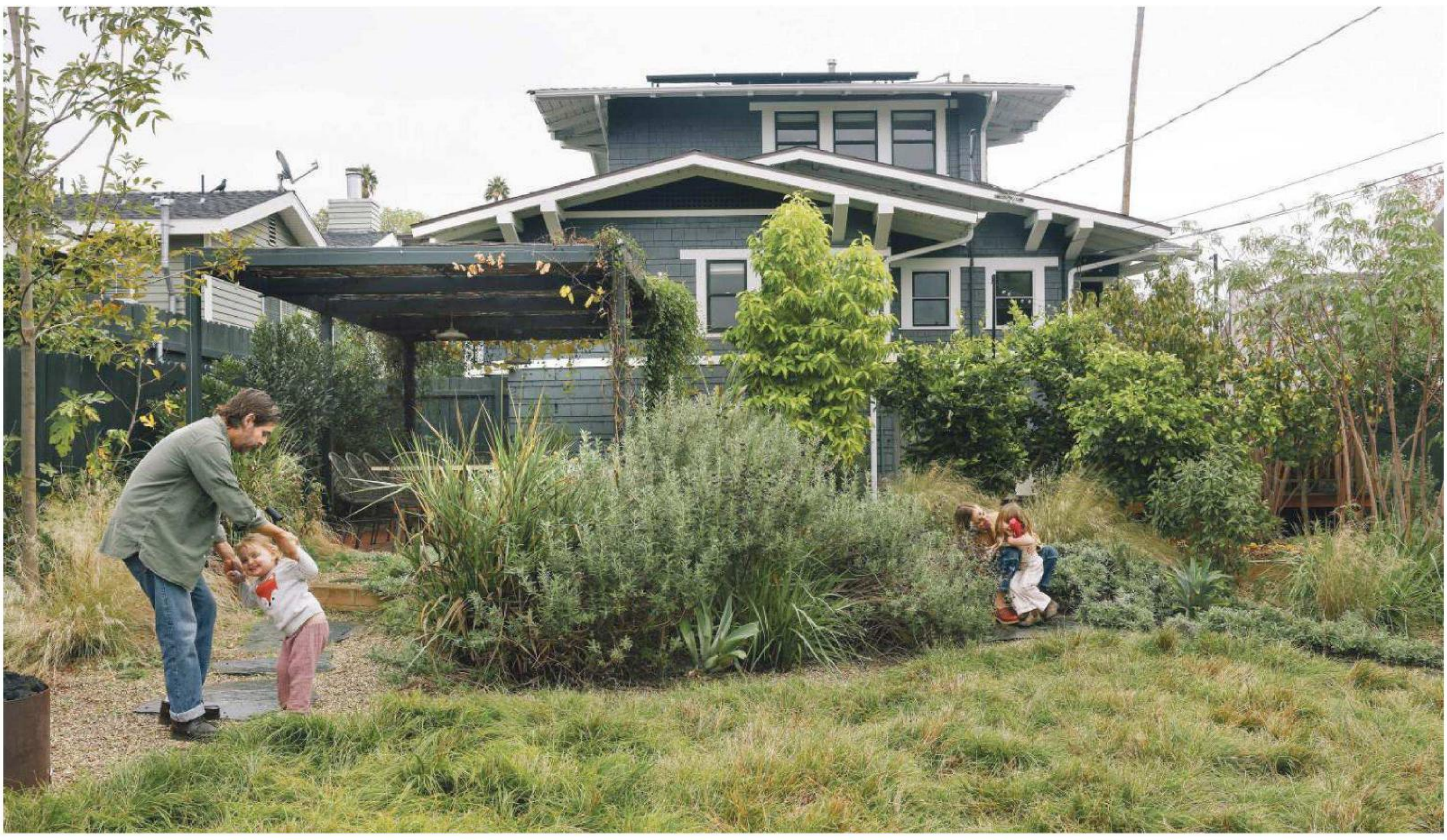
STEP INSIDE THEIR secret gardens

GATES TO GLORIOUS PRIVATE LANDSCAPES SWING OPEN FOR SPRING TOURS, INCLUDING ONE PARTICULARLY INTRIGUING SPREAD OF NATIVE PLANTS.

PAGES L6-7

Ceanothus flowers in Prisk Native Garden in Long Beach photographed by DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times; typography by ROSELLY MONEGRO For The Times

LOW-WATER and native plants grow along a path and around a sandbox in the Penns' Eagle Rock yard. The sloping lot has been shaped into three slight terraces, now lush and ready to run around.



THEY'VE DECIDED TO LET THE KIDS RUN WILD

A LAWN WASN'T RIGHT FOR THIS FAMILY. EVERYONE IS CLOSER TO NATURE NOW.

BY LISA BOONE

Photographs by DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

AS 5-YEAR-OLD Stella Penn and her sister, Maxine, 3, enthusiastically play hide-and-seek in the backyard of their Eagle Rock home, the girls are accompanied by a merry band of lizards, butterflies and birds drawn to the yard's low-water California natives, abundant fruit trees and fragrant champaca trees and Cleveland sage. ¶ Oblivious to the rainfall on an overcast morning in Los Angeles, the sisters move to a chunky wood stump in the front yard where, unprovoked, they assemble a "pizza" with a large sycamore leaf and locally sourced bits of gravel, California buckwheat and blue bush acacia as toppings.

This is exactly what their parents, Kyle and Claire Penn, both 38, had hoped for when they asked landscape designer Lauren Hamer of Los Angeles-based Terremoto to help them create a wild and carefree, bee-buzzing, kid-friendly landscape.

"We wanted a space that felt organic, lush and voluminous," says Kyle, a product and interaction designer at Google. "It was important to us to create something that would respect the natural environment and be a haven for birds and bugs and bees. We also wanted the garden to be a genuinely comfortable place for our family to spend time in."

When the first-time homeowners bought the four-bedroom 1915 Craftsman home in 2018, the backyard was an enormous, shapeless dead zone with a few random cactuses, a lonely olive shrub, an oak tree and an elm tree sapling.

Soon after the two bought the property, Claire's father came and laid sod in the backyard so that his granddaughters would have a place to run around. Although his heart was in the right place, the couple felt that it was "ridiculous" to try to keep the lawn alive in the face of California's ongoing drought and eventual water restrictions. "It sucked up so much water," Kyle says. "We had the lawn for a season and gave up. Obviously, we need to be using less water. It made sense to remove it."

After leaving the lawn to die, the Penns were overwhelmed by what to do with their sizable backyard (in total the lot measures 8,700 square feet). So in 2021, after sheltering in place during the coronavirus pandemic, they decided to invest in an outdoor habitat where they could experience nature in a variety of ways as a family. "But we needed design help," Kyle says.

For her part, Hamer designed the garden in an overwhelmingly golden-green palette. "If you're going to work with people who want to go low-water and plant natives, the color selection is going to be more golden," Hamer says. "During some parts of the year, it's going to be brown. That's just part of the seasons in California. Half of October it will be brown, and people have to embrace that." Another thing to accept when gardening with mostly natives? "The garden is going to be wild," she says.

Over eight weeks, Hamer divided the gently sloping backyard into three slight terraces and planted it with mostly California native plants that give the shapeless lot variety and differentiation.

On the first terrace, a pergola-covered outdoor dining room and living room serves as a shady place to congregate on hot days and during family movie nights. Next to it, a tight circle of fruit trees — kumquat, lime, grapefruit, orange, Meyer lemon, apricot and pear — which are watered with greywater from the home's washing machine, offer further shade and places to explore.

The second terrace is highlighted by a small meadow planted with Berkeley sedge *(Carex divulsa)*, a low-water bunching grass that resembles turf, along with raised vegetable beds where the family harvests its own food.

The third level at the back of the property is designated for play, with a simple playhouse, swings and a sandbox.

In front, Hamer installed seven fairly large sycamore trees that will eventually provide shade and cool the house during hot Los Angeles summers.

Although the garden includes many drought-tolerant plants that can endure the heat with little watering, Hamer notes that it is not exclusively a "native garden" but a *climate-appropriate* garden for Los Angeles. "It includes some plants that are well suited to Los Angeles, such as a champaca tree that is soaking up some greywater, and Atlas fescue, which is a beautiful ornamental grass," she says. "The key is that they are climate-adapted. They play well with the natives and they have something to add — in this case, a pop of neon green and loads of perfumed flowers."

Stepping into the garden now, it's hard to believe it was ever a barren landscape. The garden is playful, lush, dramatic and unexpected. There are native bush anemone (*Carpenteria californica*); tall Matilija poppies that look like big fried eggs in the spring; toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and flowering Palmer's Indian mallow (*Abutilon palmeri*). On the pergola, native morning glory and California honeysuckle have taken off on aircraft wire while blue dune lyme grass (*Elymus arenarius*) and black sage (*Salvia mellifera 'Terra Seca'*) frame the girls' sandbox at the back of the yard.

When it comes to watering, Kyle says his family waters the meadow on a drip twice a week and the landscape once every 10 days. "It's low-water but lush," Kyle says. "It doesn't feel low-water when you're in it." The couple also credits the garden's flourishing state to monthly maintenance from landcare specialists from Saturate who are trained in tending primarily California native gardens.

Since planting their garden in spring 2021, the Penn family has watched it take off. "I've never seen a garden explode like this," Hamer says. "That was wild because it takes a while for birds and pollinators to find your garden. But within six to eight months, they arrived."

The front- and backyard renovations cost roughly $100,000, including design fees, labor, drip system, plant materials, play structures, pergola and patio, lighting, a firepit and a gas line. The busy couple says it was all worth it.

At no point — even during one of California's wettest months in recent history — have the Penns questioned their decision to remove the lawn. "It has been such a rich experience," says Claire, who is a psychotherapist. "We spend so much time outside. I love having different zones for different experiences and having an opportunity to teach the girls how to harvest their own food."

As Southern California grapples with climate change, water shortages and the Colorado River in crisis, the Penns' garden illustrates how climate-appropriate plants can be just as stimulating for children as thirsty turf. "The girls love to play catch and hide-and-seek in the garden and are often out there with their bug catchers," says Kyle, smiling. "We haven't given up anything by not being able to run around on grass."

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is hosting several hands-on "Lawn Be Gone" workshops through April where you can learn how to remove your turf and replace it with low-water California-friendly and native plants: lawnbegone.ladwp.com.

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER LAUREN HAMER SHARES SEVERAL OF HER FAVORITE KEY SPECIES IN THE GARDEN

California buckwheat, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*: "We all love it!"

Mexican elderberry, *Sambucus mexicana*: "A real 'feed me' guy who is there to soak up any extra greywater and sits between the drier natives and the fruit trees."

Cleveland sage, *Salvia clevelandii*: "It doesn't get more bulletproof than this on a sunny Los Angeles site."

Bush anemone, *Carpenteria californica*: "A beautiful although sometimes temperamental white flowering floppy shrub."

Coast morning glory, *Calystegia macrostegia*: "Growing all over the pergola."

Giant wildrye grass, *Leymus condensatus*: "A big grass that I prefer over the more commonly used 'Canyon Prince' variety, which is very blue-green."

California narrow leaf milkweed, *Asclepias fascicularis*: "Otherwise known as the correct milkweed to plant!"

Water-hungry lawns are symbols of Los Angeles' past. In this series, we spotlight yards with alternative, low-water landscaping built for the future.

CLEVELAND SAGE (*Salvia clevelandii*), top, and Palmer's Indian mallow (*Abutilon palmeri*) thrive in the yard.

JIM COOKE Los Angeles Times

Lunchbox shaming

FAST FOOD OR FRESH? PARENTS CAN'T SEEM TO STOP CRITICIZING ONE ANOTHER ABOUT WHAT TO FEED KIDS.

BY RINA RAPHAEL

JANE DUNCAN'S 6-year-old son came home from school with some news to share: A classmate had informed him that his mother thought Duncan was "crazy."

"I was like, 'Oh, well, that's nice to hear,'" Duncan sarcastically recalls. "I thought it would be something about how I might have raised my voice in the playground."

Instead, Duncan's son informed her it was due to her snack choices. The other first grader had said, "Your mom sends you with a marshmallow to school every day. And that's, you know, *crazy.*"

Duncan, who works with the homebound, lives in Manhattan. She says that if this had been a scene out of "Seinfeld," she'd have thought it funny. But in real life — and involving her child — it was "heartbreaking."

It's no secret that being a parent brings along with it a wave of judgment from the outside world. A recent Pew Research Center survey of more than 3,700 U.S parents found that 35% feel judged at least sometimes by other parents in their community. Unsurprisingly, it was more prevalent with mothers (41%) than fathers (27%). And diet and nutrition, particularly when it comes to children, appears to be a key focus point for all of that judgment: According to a 2017 poll conducted by the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, 6 out of 10 mothers of young kids say they've been criticized about parenting, with more than half of those complaints centered around what they feed their children.

On social media, moms express how fellow parents make unsolicited comments about their use of jarred baby food. Some endure side-eye if they dare offer their child a chicken nugget. One mother even received a note from her child's teacher instructing her to choose more "healthy snacks."

"I had people say I should have my kid taken away because she regularly ate Nutella sandwiches with approval from her nutritionist," one mother shared on Reddit.

The pressure goes both ways: Some moms are judged for being "too healthy" and ridiculed for caring "too much." This constant balancing act of managing nutrition has been described as "McDonald's Moms v. Organic Moms" by sociologists Kate Cairns, Josée Johnston and Merin Oleschuk. "Either extreme garners social stigma," they write.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT FOOD?

There's something going on with diet — and weight — in particular. In a 2019 Harvard University study analyzing millions of Americans' implicit and explicit biases between 2007 and 2016, researchers found that overall, the country was becoming more accepting. However, an implicit weight bias ("pro-thin/anti-fat") had increased by 40%. Researchers think "the increasing attention to the health benefits of lower body weight and concerns about the obesity epidemic may be responsible for the increase in bias." In part, that's because body size is seen as being "under one's control" (even though it often isn't).

Priya Fielding-Singh, a sociologist and author of "How the Other Half Eats: The Untold Story of Food and Inequality in America," says the heated discourse surrounding childhood obesity puts extra pressure on parents. "It has led to a growing moral panic … a concern for children's diets and weight in a way that feels really pressing and urgent."

What's more, parents tend to hold fierce opinions when it comes to their children's health, explains Liane Young, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Boston College who specializes in moral judgment. If you strongly identify with a particular set of traits, "anything that departs from what you do can feel like your decisions are being undermined or your identity is being threatened," she says.

And it's not even always strictly about children's well-being. Janice Baker, a registered dietitian in San Diego, feels that the growing concern surrounding obesity in middle-class and upper-middle-class communities is tied to body size and appearance, with parents projecting their own fears. "Kids are often seen as trophies. … It's how they look, how they perform and what colleges they get into," says Baker. Parents fear they'll be judged for how their children are *perceived.* (And often, they will be.)

IT'S HUMAN NATURE

We all judge. It's intuitive and largely automatic, says Adam Moore, a psychology lecturer at the University of Edinburgh who researches decision-making.

Our caveman ancestors judged to scout for potential threats and to ensure survival, and while modern parents do make snap judgments for safety, many are also about control. "They are about wanting to be included in a group, which goes back to fear," says clinical psychologist Carla Manly. "If you're excluded from that group, you don't feel safe."

Besides, moral superiority can feel good: Judging others validates our choices and boosts our self-esteem. The problem is that good-or-bad binary thinking oversimplifies what are usually complex issues (and isn't ultimately beneficial for anyone). There isn't always a "right" way, just different ways. Can you, for example, judge someone's nutrition when there is no agreed-upon diet — or when the "ideal diet" is subject to cultural preferences? Not to mention that nutrition is based on overall dietary patterns, not one singular snack choice.

Baker felt extra judged by fellow parents who assumed that because she was a dietitian, she fed her children only whole wheat bread and carrots. Then, when Baker took her 5-year-old to a McDonald's after soccer practice, one mom commented, "This isn't something I think is right."

"We ate a variety of foods," Baker says. "I knew in the context of everything it was OK. … One meal doesn't make or break."

Lower-income and marginalized communities often face extra scrutiny and additional government surveillance about their parenting practices, especially when they receive public assistance and benefits, Fielding-Singh notes. "Generally in our society, good moms are portrayed as white, upper-middle-class and married to men. So anyone who kind of deviates from that image is not given the same sort of benefit of the doubt."

Duncan struggled as a single parent to keep up with wealthy peers who often sent their kids to school with sushi. "I'm not a millionaire and everyone else was," she says. "There was a lot of poor-shaming."

She recalls how her son once attended a birthday party at which only children with parental permission slips or prior verbal consent could have soda. Except, "Nobody could get in touch with their parents," says Duncan, "so only my kid was allowed to have it." Later, several parents told Duncan they didn't want their children to eat with her son because financially it was unlikely she could keep up with their nutritional standards, which included, among other constraints, food that was organic, gluten-free and sugar-free.

IT ALL FALLS ON MOMS' SHOULDERS

When it comes to what is considered "good parenting," mothers are particularly subject to gendered ideas — and their fallout. "Feeding children is one of the most idealized forms of femininity and motherhood," Fielding-Singh says. And food is disproportionately managed by mothers.

Melanie Marie Boyer, a nonprofit foundation executive from Pittsburgh, once saw a group of moms at the park shame a mother for giving her child a sugary juice drink and snacks. The next time she went to the park, a father shared the same types of snacks with his son, which garnered a different reaction.

"These same women [exclaimed], 'Oh my God, what a great guy! He *even* remembered snacks!'" says Boyer. "It was the exact situation I saw this mom be torn apart for."

Mothers are often expected to be self-sacrificing, child-centered and experts in everything, despite few structural support systems — like comprehensive maternity benefits, extended postpartum care or sufficient childcare policies. "The list goes on and on," says Sara Petersen, author of "Momfluenced: Inside the Maddening, Picture-Perfect World of Mommy Influencer Culture." "So it would make sense that we would want to root our concept of maternal fitness through relatively easily controllable variables, like choosing what to feed my toddler for breakfast."

According to Fielding-Singh, the "privatization" of feeding means food has become an individualized affair that's solely the parent's responsibility and is detached from societal or economic factors. "But the food system and policy landscape are not set up for you to be supported in doing that work."

Kathleen Gerson, a professor of sociology at New York University and the author of "The Unfinished Revolution," agrees: "The lack of institutional support for parents means that the stakes are higher. When we don't have institutions that make it possible to achieve our goals — when we're left on our own — we don't just judge other people. We judge ourselves as well."

More specifically, when mothers feel scrutinized, there's often a sense of having to defend one's own choices by evaluating other people's choices, Gerson adds.

Is it like this in the rest of the world? A 2020 study published in Qualitative Sociology analyzed the nature of maternal guilt across four cities: Stockholm, Berlin, Rome and Washington, D.C. Sociologist Caitlyn Collins found that middle-class mothers in all four countries suffered from guilt, but it was particularly strong in the U.S. — and it was tied to mothers' lack of support.

HOW TO REDUCE THE JUDGING

It would seem that the divisions — and Goldfish cracker critiques — are symptoms of these shared social issues. And the solution is to reach across those divisions, instead of resorting to individual evaluations. "First and foremost, mothers need to support each other," Gerson suggests. "Secondly, they need to say to the larger society: These are collective issues, and we shouldn't be held as the default for solving problems that we did not create and that we cannot solve."

But again, we're all human. So experts have a few tips the next time you feel tempted to judge another parent's food choices:

Reflect on your response. We're all guilty of thinking, "I would never do that." Ask yourself what's at the core of your criticism. Does this stem from some other anxiety? Could you need reassurance about your choices? Show some curiosity: Explore why someone might have done something differently.

Recognize that most people are trying their best. Not everyone has the same exposure to health information, access to nutritious food or the bandwidth to prepare certain kinds of meals. Many parents barely get the time to shower, so let's not hold them to Alice Waters-level expectations.

Be mindful. Shaming people prevents them from pursuing healthy behaviors. The stigma is a deterrent, not a motivator. Determine whether it's essential to leave that snarky comment or offer your sister-in-law your two cents. If you do, ensure the tone is helpful, understanding and, most of all, kind.

Practice self-compassion. We're our own toughest critics. As Gerson says, the less you judge yourself — the less you're concerned with evaluating your own practices — "the less likely you are to judge other people."

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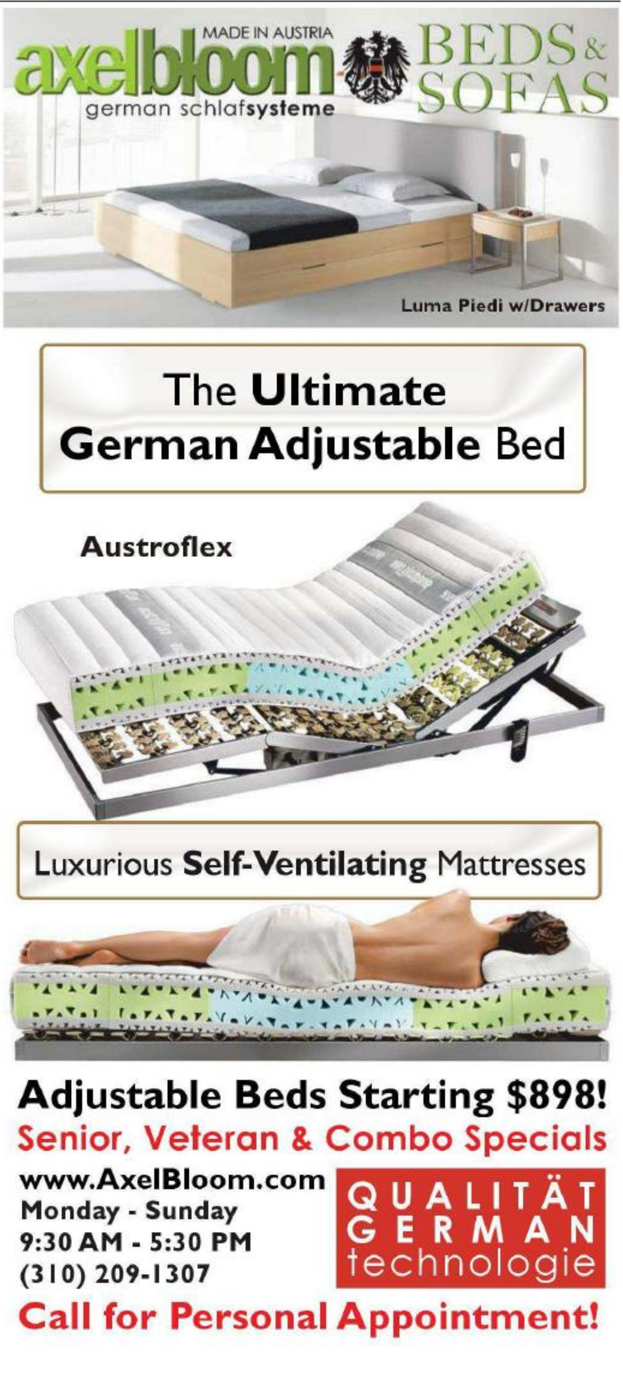

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ENSURES THERE'S A WELCOME SIGN ON THE OUTDOORS

MICHAEL WASHINGTON FELT EXCLUDED BY NATURE GROUPS, SO HE CREATED HIS OWN

BY LINA ABASCAL

Photographs by IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

A USAL PROJECT walk: Learning to identify herbs and plants, Sainabou Gaye, top left, and Lindsey Esch take notes during an excursion led by Andrea Jimenez, above right, at Hahamongna Watershed Park in Pasadena. USAL founder Michael Washington, near left, chats with Jimenez. Below: nature's classroom.

GET OUT into nature, they said. Los Angeles is no more than two hours from snow, beach, mountains or desert (depending on traffic). It's free, they said. To Michael Washington — founder of USAL Project, a company offering guided nature excursions in Los Angeles — this all sounds great in theory. But for the unfledged, it's not that easy or welcoming. He hopes he can bridge that gap.

Washington first tried to tap into existing nature programs in the L.A. area. When he attended a foraging convention last year, he felt ostracized. "I walked in and it was all white people over 50. When I tried to ask questions, I got such a cold shoulder. It was so uninviting. I was like, 'This is the issue,' " he says.

So he began toying with the idea of creating a diverse place for the outdoors-curious. Not an expert himself, he worried about being judged. After months of deliberation, he decided that was why he was the perfect candidate. As a novice, he was the target customer, and he knew he could tap experts to help. He could create the group he had failed to find.

He was also ready for a big life change, one that embraced nature and invigorated his creativity. At one point, his job as a talent manager in the music industry meant helping artists tell their stories. Then it became a viral race that required shark-like instincts he couldn't fake. But that wasn't the dream. He wanted to find his way back to being a storyteller. The outdoors led him there.

"People are always like, 'Wow, what you're doing now is so different,' but to me it really isn't. It's a lot of the same skill set," says Washington, 32. "It's producing events, it's marketing, it's storytelling. It's connecting the dots to a wider community, to a landscape, to a location through activity and a shared interest. The vessel then was music, the vessel now is the outdoors."

Working as a talent manager, Washington was pulled away from his love of the outdoors. Raised in San Antonio, he developed an interest in nature while studying at the University of Colorado Boulder. After graduating, he moved to Los Angeles, where on the rare weekend off from working with his clients — internationally touring DJs and budding indie-rock musicians — he'd pile his gear into a camper van and find a new pocket of the state to unplug in.

These adventures led Washington to Usal Beach in Humboldt County, where he could surf, camp and hike. He'd later follow in Patagonia's footsteps and name his organization USAL Project after the area that inspired it. But at the time, his interest in the outdoors was just beginning to eclipse the love he once had for the music industry; with it, his Instagram feed morphed from pictures of nights out to photos of idyllic coastlines and smiling selfies on steep mountains. Both friends and strangers noticed the shift. In a few years, he'd find a way to make the outdoors his full-time job, but in the meantime, he savored every moment at Usal.

"Strangers would reach out to me online with long messages telling me how sharing my nature photos and hikes has helped them. It surprised me, but it made me feel really good, and I started trying to figure out how I could do this in a way that felt purposeful," Washington says.

It was clear that Washington wasn't the only Los Angeles resident craving more time outdoors. Closures during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic forced people out of their comfort zones, exploring nearby trails for socially distanced walks. Outdoors performance gear has even influenced fashion trends and prompted Gucci's collaboration with North Face.

Through USAL, Washington hopes to shift what the average outdoorsman looks like, acknowledging that the wealthy, white, male archetype is a result of systemic racism and classism that have led people of color like him into neighborhoods and socioeconomic situations that make the outdoors less accessible.

"The outdoors is different from other activities because of the safety level. You can't get started alone," he says. "Learning how to do something the right way isn't just good, it can be the difference [in] saving your life. Being around teachers that come from the same city as you, from the same generation as you, maybe are similar skin color as you, helps."

On Earth Day 2022, USAL Project launched its first event, a foraging workshop. The next month, Washington quit his job in music.

Under the curation of Washington and his newly appointed business partner, DJ and chef Zoe Gitter, USAL Project hosts 20 to 25 events per month in the Los Angeles area. A gardening techniques class is $20, while a guided herb walk or foraging hike is $30. For the thrillseeker, there are falconry ($100) or oceanic species dives ($120). Less physical activities include breathwork workshops ($35), ceramics ($85), beading ($100) and compost bin making ($55). Weekend-long trips focused on camping, backpacking and spearfishing are hosted in Joshua Tree, Morro Bay and Big Sur ($80-$200). All events include materials and equipment and are guided by field experts.

USAL is not the only brand offering guided nature trips in Los Angeles. "You can get a guided fishing trip anywhere," says Washington. In many cases, USAL's pricing is competitive, but the brand hopes to differentiate itself with a clear mission.

"A lot of times, nature activities get looped into wellness on one side and fitness on the other. Where we sit is somewhere in the middle of that," Washington says. "Our guides are different because they're teaching the human connection to the activity and how it helped their lives. The goal is to help people see why these activities are extremely important and not only fun but important for your life routine."

On a brisk Saturday morning, about 30 20- and 30-somethings gathered in Hahamongna Watershed Park in Pasadena. Washington stood quietly in the back, letting Andrea Jimenez of Herb Walk L.A. guide the group in identifying plants from stinging nettle to California sagebrush. Attendees asked dozens of questions, some sketching each herb and others foraging a bouquet for medicinal use. The event, one of USAL's mainstays, sells out every time.

Mario Apuzzo, a business major at USC, invited two classmates to join him on the herb walk. "I found out about USAL over Instagram," he said. "I was very attracted to the visuals of it. Last week, I tried the forest therapy class, and it was completely transformative."

That evening, USAL hosted its first round table dinner party at its new bricks-and-mortar space in Silver Lake. Like nearby boutiques, USAL will sell locally made goods like candles and ceramics alongside its branded merchandise — hoodies and sweatpants with trippy, fashion-forward graphics. Washington hopes that the store can uplift the local community by selling their goods and that the brand expansion will allow proceeds from USAL merchandise to keep the ticket price of events as low as possible.

Olivia Matthews, a growth manager at a startup, was one of 40 attendees at the dinner. She grabbed a glass of natural wine before starting a conversation with three other women. All four attended the dinner alone, hoping to meet like-minded people. Despite being new to L.A., Matthews is already a USAL veteran. Since July, she's taken a woodworking class, gone on the herb walk, experienced forest therapy and participated in the monthly outdoor gear swap.

"These events allowed me to meet people, learn more about things I can do nearby, connect to nature and pursue new hobbies," Matthews said. "They were such a great introduction to L.A. for me and were so accessible and approachable. As I've continued going to USAL events, I've started seeing the same people, and it's been really nice to start building that community over time."

USAL was built to introduce curious L.A. residents to the wonders of the great outdoors, but despite the diversity of attendees, there's a clear common thread. "The flag we hang in terms of what our Instagram looks like, our images and videos, is attracting a certain type of creative person," Washington says. "We're coming to the outdoors with a fresh perspective that's different from other outdoors brands. It's naturally bringing people that identify with certain tastes together and not the kind of people who are arrogant."

It's no accident that the group looks like something of a cool kids club, but regardless of the stylish sneakers or hats worn at the herb walk or round table dinner, the community stays true to its for-everyone roots. Anything less would result in the same barriers Washington faced a year ago.

"Have you noticed none of us have asked what the others do for a living?" Matthews asked her new friends by the firepit outside USAL headquarters. "That's how you know this is different."

LISA CONGDON For The Times

Like a gym, but you work out feelings

DOES THE AVERAGE AMERICAN NEED A SUPPORT GROUP? SOCIAL WELLNESS IS CATCHING ON IN THE WORKPLACE AND BEYOND.

BY RINA RAPHAEL

PEPPY POP music kicks off the virtual meeting, for which rows of attendees are arranged like "The Brady Bunch." "I love to see all these beautiful, smiley faces!" exclaims our guide, shouting out the names of participants. Everyone looks eager to do what they came here to do: Share their feelings with strangers.

Nearly 20 people have joined this guided group conversation, a "gather" run by a new startup called Peoplehood. Over the next hour, our guide — her vibe is part yoga instructor, part sleep-away camp director — prompts attendees to get, well, personal.

The "gather" starts as one big group. Members engage in some breathwork exercises, listen to a little John Mayer music and share one thing that "feels true to them." (One member felt it was true that his hangovers get worse as he ages.) Then everyone is paired off into randomly determined, brief one-on-one sessions with assigned prompts.

Peoplehood keeps gathers casual and upbeat, which sets the tone for the topics discussed: indecisiveness when scanning a menu, DoorDash reliance guilt, excitement for a future concert.

Every so often, however, a member gets more emotional. One expresses the difficulties of watching a parent battle cancer. Another mentions wrestling with caring for a family member who is seemingly unhoused — a confession that feels jarringly intimate. But more often than not, the mood is kept light and conversational.

"This is peer-to-peer support," says Peoplehood co-founder Julie Rice. "It is not therapy."

Rice and her co-founder, Elizabeth Cutler, are no strangers to group gatherings: The longtime collaborators founded SoulCycle, which they sold to Equinox in 2011. Now, they're applying their expertise in community-building to "social wellness."

In addition to its digital offering, Peoplehood has an in-person bricks-and-mortar New York location. An L.A. site is expected down the line.

Rice describes Peoplehood as "a connection product," noting, "People don't have the scaffolding and the structure that they need to be able to practice [social health]."

SELLING SOCIAL SUPPORT

Mental health is finally at the forefront of national conversations, but the focus has generally been on therapy, medication and behavioral change. Communal and social support have long been missing — yet crucial — components. Even the wellness industry has largely ignored social support, instead pushing lonely and pricy "self-care" endeavors.

That's slowly changing. A new generation of for-profit group gatherings hopes to remedy what's been dubbed the "loneliness epidemic" — or "the friendship recession" — by serving people's need for real and meaningful social networks.

Rice and Cutler say they spent three years studying religion, fitness and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), and speaking with psychologists, spiritual leaders, doctors and professors across a range of disciplines. More than 1,000 people participated in Peoplehood's beta testing, and 100 Los Angeles-based college students took part in a pilot program.

When they hire guides for gathers, they say they look for "empaths" who reportedly are put through a "rigorous training program," but no further details were provided.

AA is the most recognizable system of secular peer support, with an estimated worldwide membership topping 2 million. But not everyone looking for a shoulder to rely on has an addiction or identifies with a disorder.

"It's so weird to us that there is nothing that's really sitting between everyday life and crisis," says Cutler. "This is a training ground for us to be more socially healthy … a missing support system, for lack of a better term."

AS WE FACE A NEW NORMAL

Nearly 60% of U.S. adults feel lonely, according to a Morning Consult survey commissioned by Cigna. Women are slightly lonelier than men, and young adults are twice as likely as seniors to be lonely. Almost 80% of Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 report feeling lonely.

The pandemic further exacerbated loneliness. But even before 2020, a web of complex factors contributed to American loneliness, as Robert D. Putnam detailed in his groundbreaking book "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community" in 2000. "There's quite a precipitous fall in what we would call social capital in the United States," says Mike Murphy, a lecturer in applied psychology at University College Cork in Ireland who specializes in psychological well-being and social support.

For some, it isn't that they don't have enough friends but rather they aren't satisfied with the level of social engagement available. Roughly a third of lonely adults report talking to their family or partner about how they feel "quite a bit" or "a lot," which means that the majority of lonely adults aren't talking to anyone. The acknowledgment of mutual interdependence — which requires vulnerability — isn't a well established part of Western society, says Murphy. "So people, especially men, are more and more reluctant to talk about their feelings."

In response to this phenomenon, several men's groups have sprouted in recent years, including Evryman, a men's social-health platform, support group and retreat series.

Evryman co-founder and Chief Executive Lucas Krump wanted to build an outlet for "everyday guys": men who struggle with intimacy and lack of community but don't want anything too spiritual or therapeutic. Krump describes Evryman as a "gym" where men can exercise skills to better engage with themselves and others. Already, the organization has more than 100 U.S. chapters.

Evryman members can join virtual groups or in-person peer-led and facilitated gatherings in which leadership changes each week. Popular topics include relationships, work-life balance and fatherhood, but also purpose and meaning. More than anything, Evryman teaches men how to express themselves and develop "emotional literacy and resilience," stresses Krump.

"If you ask somebody, 'How are you feeling,' they say, 'OK,' " says Krump. " 'OK' is not an emotion."

L.A. resident Ebenezer Bond, who works in marketing, joined Evryman after a difficult breakup at age 40 left him heartbroken and confused. He had one best friend he could talk to, but that was it. "There's a lack of connection and vulnerability that I found through this," Bond says.

CORPORATE ADOPTERS

Social support is trending in corporate America too. Spoke Circles is a group support hub that offers not only in-person gatherings at its Brooklyn-based space but ventures out into workplace wellness programs. Spoke meets with tech companies, fashion brands and mom-and-pop shops (like a hair salon) to help employees discuss work-life integration, anxiety and navigating difficult conversations.

Spoke Circles launched during the pandemic. At the time, Spoke Circles co-founder and Chief Executive Lia Avellino, a psychotherapist, was inundated with IRL requests.

Sessions quickly sold out on topics such as identifying what's good enough in relationships and careers — some within the first few hours. "People were craving people," says Avellino. "They wanted to have experiences where they weren't separated from one another on a screen." (Attendees wore masks.)

Sessions range in cost from $30 to $100, with select sessions weaving in additional activities like art, sound healing, floral arranging and collective screaming.

While virtual meetings serve an important and convenient role, experts note that in-person still reigns supreme. A recent Meetup survey found that people are actively looking to get together, and when they do, they want to meet face-to-face: In January, 71% of all Meetup events were in person. "A fair body of research shows that the mere physical presence of another sympathetic, understanding person makes us feel better," says University College Cork's Murphy.

Even niche sectors have jumped on the in-person support bandwagon.

Field Trip is one of the largest providers of psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy, with nine locations, including two in California, in Santa Monica and San Diego. In November, it launched a program that pairs psychedelic medicine with virtual and physical group gatherings — called "integration circles" — of up to 10 people for $299 per month. Essentially, it added a community layer to an existing service. Before, Field Trip's medical and therapeutic guides conducted sessions alone with patients.

Field Trip is staffed by physicians and nurse practitioners who can prescribe ketamine, although external physicians can refer clients. While ketamine treatment is growing in popularity, the scientific community stresses the need for more research into long-term benefits and potential side effects.

Clients include everyone from a woman whose husband was diagnosed with dementia to a recently laid-off tech worker. Some struggle with PTSD or depression, but plenty of others are simply dealing with undiagnosed anxiety, says Field Trip co-founder and Chief Executive Ronan Levy.

Psychedelics reportedly help some people shut down their inhibitory barriers, thereby helping them better connect with strangers. Clients participating in Field Trip's group gatherings take ketamine while in the integration circles.

Alyssa Angela Chow, a UX researcher in Sacramento, sought Field Trip's new program for depression and anxiety. The integration circles, by her account, turned off intrusive thoughts; she could explore her consciousness without any judgment, in the comfort of those doing the same. "It definitely makes you feel less alone," Chow says.

Jonathan N. Stea, a clinical psychologist and adjunct assistant professor at the University of Calgary, says peer-support groups can help people feel validated and connected to others working through similar challenges, but he remains skeptical of psychedelic-based peer support groups. "Depending on a person's mental health concerns, artificially increasing their disinhibition in a group setting might not necessarily be a good thing."

Beyond Field Trip, some experts express skepticism about these new programs, which could be viewed as commodifying human relationships. We're used to social support being free: AA has no dues, and religious institutions are generally better equipped to help those who have financially fallen on hard times. Book clubs, cooking groups and the like are also free.

By situating themselves outside of health and addiction but still somewhat health-*adjacent,* companies like Peoplehood can anticipate customer hesitation: People might balk at social support with a price tag. Tying social support to financial ability poses several thorny issues: What happens when a member loses their job? Do they then lose their community?

Evryman offers a "pay-what-you-can" policy for its digital platform. Likewise, Spoke Circles has a sliding fee scale. Avellino notes it's not uncommon for a youth in foster care to be in the same group as a CEO. That's one aspect she's particularly proud of: facilitating connections between different kinds of people who find common ground through shared desires and struggles.

Still, Murphy notes that this sort of social engagement is by nature rather artificial. "This is constructing a *version* of friendship," he says.

But if an organic friendship isn't available, perhaps one of these groups is the next best thing.

"It's an unusual way of doing it," says Murphy, "and maybe speaks to the fact that the way our society is structured is such that it can be very hard to meet somebody and actually establish a relationship."

These paid programs can be beneficial *if* they initiate real friendships, and perhaps for some users they will.

THE GATE TO THAT PRIVATE GARDEN IS NOW OPEN

SPRING TOUR TIME MEANS ACCESS TO USUALLY OFF-LIMITS SANCTUARIES, INCLUDING NATIVE-PLANT BEAUTIES

BY JEANETTE MARANTOS

IN 1995, WHEN most people considered native plants little more than weeds (if they considered them at all), desert devotee Mike Letteriello peered through a chain-link fence at a patch of bare ground and dreamed up a fragrant, vibrant tribute to California's diverse native plant communities. ¶ Nearly 30 years later, his dream is a lush reality, with a small waterfall, stream and pond along a meandering path bordered by a stony desert wash, thick chaparral, a flowery meadow and even native shrubs and trees from the Channel Islands bursting with blooms. ¶ It's still mostly viewed through a fence because it's on the grounds of William F. Prisk Elementary School in Long Beach and reserved for students and teachers. But during Southern California's annual season of spring garden tours, the gates of Prisk Native Garden will be open to the public from 1 to 4 p.m. this Sunday and again on April 2. Admission is free, but "donations will be gladly accepted," Letteriello said. ¶ The Prisk Native Garden tour is the earliest of more than 16 annual tours of private gardens around SoCal that extend into May, many of which are fundraisers for nonprofit organizations. You can find a list of other tours below, but if you've got a free afternoon and an interest in creating native plant habitats, or just wandering through a beautiful and lovingly tended garden of more than 300 mature species of California native plants, a visit to the Prisk garden is well worth your time.

It was Prisk Elementary science teacher Candy Jennings who first envisioned creating a native plant garden on 7,500 square feet of weeds and dirt at the southwest corner of the school grounds, at East Los Arcos Street and Albury Avenue in Long Beach. She sought advice from the Theodore Payne Foundation — then known as the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants — and the foundation staff called Letteriello, a Long Beach painting contractor, native plant enthusiast and avid volunteer.

"They basically said, 'Mike, can you handle this gal?' so Candy and I got together, and it was the most fateful outreach you could imagine," Letteriello said.

"I looked through the fence at flat dirt — a huge blank palette. The only plant was one white alder — *Alnus rhombifolia* — and I thought, 'How can I do this?' I had no master plan at the time, and I'd never designed a big garden. All I'd done was take out the lawn at my house and put in native plants ... but I told her, 'Let's just do this and I'll design it as we go.' "

And design he did. He and Jennings, her husband, Alan, and the Jennings' neighbor, Frank Duroy, took on the job of transforming the dirt into the colorful quilt of habitats it is today. Duroy not only helped with physical labor, Letteriello said, but he became the garden's benefactor too, providing money for materials, a storage shed and the garden's "learning arbor," a sheltered space for classes to learn outside, recently renovated by Long Beach Eagle Scout Kai Cobabe, a Prisk alumnus.

Creating the garden was fairly straightforward, Letteriello said, once they came up with the theme.

"The idea was to organize the garden by plant communities," he said, "like you're crossing California from the ocean to the desert, through all the biomes and native plant communities — a beach, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, mountain meadow, freshwater creek and marsh, shade garden, desert wash. ... We even included plantings from the Channel Islands."

Duroy helped pay for a lot of those initial materials, including a good-sized fish pond that he and Letteriello dug themselves. In 2017, Letteriello got a $7,000 grant from the South Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society to build a small waterfall and stream that runs into the pond and recirculates back to the waterfall with power from solar panels. By then, Duroy had died and Candy Jennings had retired, so Letteriello did most of that work, again as a volunteer, with his friend Joey Vanoni, who helped him lug in rocks to build the creek.

The resulting waterway looks like a natural jumble of logs and rocks created by a small flash flood, with artfully set steps hidden by a profusion of native grasses and shrubs along the banks. Letteriello got permission from state wildlife officials to bring in two dozen native arroyo chub minnows for the pond from San Juan Creek, along the Ortega Highway. The chub have multiplied heartily, but Letteriello has had to erect netting "to keep raccoons from ravaging the pond." The pond also has one lonely frog that Letteriello hopes to socialize when he brings in tadpoles later in the spring.

The Prisk garden is less than a fifth of an acre, but there's so much to see, time seems to slow for visitors who get the Letteriello tour because he has a personal story for almost every plant and he's a stickler for details. The Latin names of the plants he loves roll off his tongue as easily as his stories, which tend to drift as delightfully as his garden paths.

For instance, one of the low-growing varieties of sagebrush, *Artemisia californica* 'Canyon Gray,' was found on San Miguel Island, Letteriello said, where it adapted to the strong Channel Island winds by growing close to the ground, much flatter than *Artemisia californica*'s regular upright form. But with its feathery, silver-green foliage, Canyon Gray sagebrush makes a lovely groundcover for yards, especially since it has the same sharp, savory aroma as the taller plant, and did you know, he said, barely taking a breath, that some Southern California Indigenous peoples would weave sagebrush branches around their necks to serve as a kind of fragrant bug repellent?

Then there's the sprawling island oak that Letteriello carried back from the Catalina Conservancy as a seedling in a gallon can, cradled in the front seat of his pickup, or the hilly area he created in the center of the garden from donated shale and other rocks — "my homage to the Vasquez Rocks," he said, the iconic jagged rock formations near Agua Dulce in the high desert off Highway 14, made famous in numerous commercials and television shows.

Desert landscapes are what drew Letteriello to native plants in the first place. He loves wandering through desert washes, especially in the Mojave Desert, and tried to create that effect in his yard as well as the desert biome at Prisk. Many people have contributed to create and maintain this garden, but it continues to thrive because Letteriello has made it his life's work. He doesn't get any monetary payment as the garden steward, but when the kids run in, clambering over the stones he laid around the stream or squealing with excitement at the sight of a lizard — there are many in the garden — he said he feels well paid.

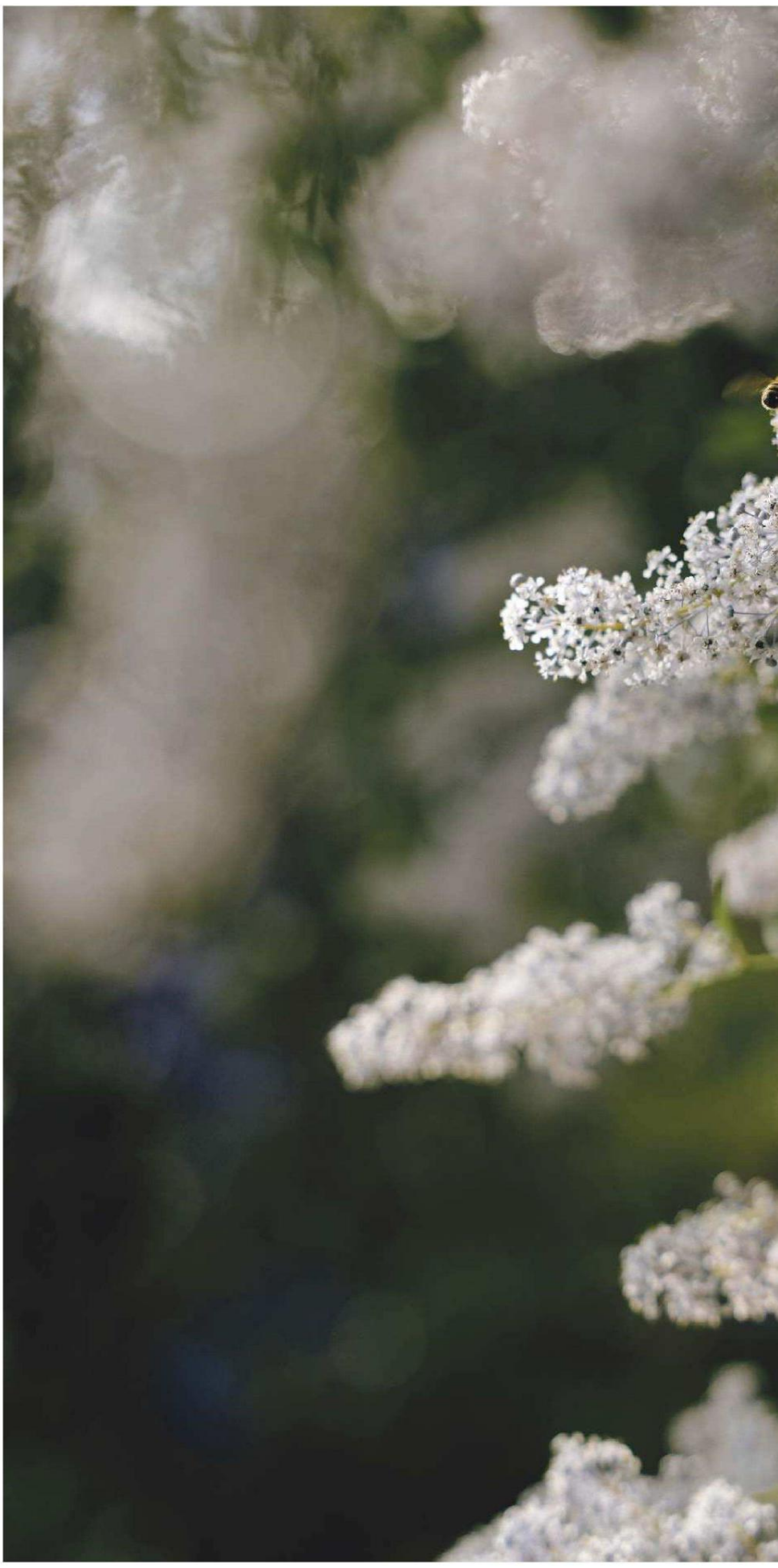
"One girl opened up her arms and said, 'I just want to live here.' Another boy looked at me with delight on his face and said, 'This is my happy place.' Those are all spontaneous things they came up with — I couldn't solicit those comments if I tried, and when I hear them I think, 'I've done my job,' " he said.

"And this isn't just a garden, it's a zoo, with the chub and frog and the lizards and all the birds ... ," Letteriello trailed off as a swallowtail butterfly sailed by, almost on cue, to land on a purple-blooming lupine, and he laughed in delighted disbelief. It was just too perfect.

Someday, he said, he'd love to expand the Prisk garden into the huge expanse of asphalt behind the school, to create a bigger garden and stream. But more than anything, Letteriello wants to spread the gospel of the benefits of school gardens. He's creating a nonprofit organization called Wild for Schools to try to build more native plant gardens at schools because he thinks they bring something rare and precious to the students within.

"[Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent] Alberto Carvalho said, 'So many kids are caught in concrete jungles; we have a moral obligation to remove them from that,' and I'm in total agreement," he said. "It's therapeutic to immerse children in nature. It calms them down and gets them into the present time, not the past or future. When you get kids in nature, they become highly observational. They start asking, 'What's that? What's this?' and they're looking at everything with intense interest. When they stare at a computer, it's not the same as surrounding kids with aromas, butterflies and lizards, fish and moving water."

His mission now is to convince financial backers and school leaders that these native plant gardens should be a fix-



SPRING scenes at Prisk Native Garden in Long Beach, right, with apricot mallow, clockwise from above, greenbark ceanothus, chalk dudleya and baby blue eyes thriving in an environment designed and stewarded by Mike Letteriello. The school garden is open this Sunday and April 2.

Photographs by DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times; illustrations by ROSELLY MONEGRO For The Times

ture in every school. There are so many lessons that can be taught here, he said, about plants and biology, the importance of habitat, animals and drought, and how California's native peoples used the plants around them for food, shelter, medicine and spirituality.

"It's highly educational, and it connects us with our heritage in California," he said. "I was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to an Italian immigrant family and moved to California when I was a child. I've never been to Italy, and I don't care to go now. I love our mountains and deserts. I'd rather tour California because it's my home and I'm proud to live here. I want these kids to know we're unique, this is part of their heritage, and I'm just beginning."

WHERE TO GO FOR GARDEN TOURS

CLEARLY, GARDENS can be intensely personal creations, so if you're looking to be inspired or just want to satisfy your inner voyeur, there are lots of other garden tours throughout Southern California this spring. Here's a list of upcoming events:

SUNDAY AND APRIL 2

The Prisk Native Plant Garden Open House features a free visit to the native plant garden usually closed to the public. From 1 to 4 p.m. both days at William F. Prisk Elementary School, 2375 Fanwood Ave. in Long Beach. The garden is behind the school, at the corner of East Los Arcos Street and Albury Avenue. *facebook.com/prisknativegarden*

APRIL 15-16

The 20th Theodore Payne Foundation Native Plant Garden Tour features 37 gardens around Los Angeles devoted to at least 50% native plants. Ticket holders get a map for self-guided tours to gardens on the Westside of L.A. on April 15 and the Eastside on April 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. One ticket gets you into all the gardens on both days and provides an opportunity to see gardens for larger spaces as well as residences, including Kuruvungna & the Tongva Sacred Springs, Ballona Discovery Park, Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden, the Gottlieb Native Garden and Los Nogales wholesale native plant nursery. Participants will get a map in the mail once they purchase their tickets for $45 ($40 for members, children under 16 do not need tickets). *nativeplantgardentour.org*

APRIL 16

The Creative Arts Group 28th Art of the Garden Tour includes self-guided tours of four gardens in the foothill communities of Pasadena, San Marino and Sierra Madre from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are $40 if purchased before April 16 and $45 on the day of the tour. The tour is the biggest annual fundraiser for the group, which is entering its 63rd year as a community nonprofit. Executive Director Gwen Robertson said the tour strives to includes at least one blockbuster estate and one more modest but still inspiring homeowner-designed habitat garden. Photography, pets and children under 12 are not permitted on the tours. The Creative Arts Group Gallery will be open at 108 N. Baldwin Ave. in Sierra Madre for people who want to purchase tickets in person and view work by more than 25 local artists. *creativeartsgroup.org*

APRIL 23

Claremont Eclectic: A Tour of Six Local Gardens from 1 to 4:30 p.m. around the city of Claremont, as well as two entries into the California Botanic Garden in Claremont, the state's largest botanic garden devoted to California native plants, the day of the tour and once again in May. The self-guided tours begin at the botanic garden parking lot, 1500 N. College Ave., where ticket holders with a receipt can get their tour maps and brochures. Proceeds support the Claremont Garden Club. Tickets are $20 and can be purchased in person at Claremont Heritage in Memorial Park, 840 N. Indian Hill Blvd., or Rio de Ojas at 250 N. Harvard Ave. as well as online. *claremontgardenclub.org*

APRIL 22-23

The Redlands Garden Tour, sponsored by the Redlands Horticultural and Improvement Society, features six private gardens representing a broad variety of garden landscaping, including hillside gardens, a yard filled with colorful mosaics and other repurposed yard art, a 5-acre garden where you can feed the ducks and the stately Kimberly Crest Gardens surrounding the mansion built in 1897. The self-guided tours are available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Tickets are $15 (children 13 and younger enter free) and must be purchased with cash or check only at the Asistencia, 26930 Barton Road in Redlands. *redlandsgardenclub.org*

APRIL 23

The Garden Conservancy Pasadena Open Days Tour: Explore four elaborate private gardens at historic homes in Pasadena. Tickets are $10 per garden ($5 for members) and available online only. Children 12 and under enter free with an accompanying adult. *gardenconservancy.org*

The Morongo Basin Conservation Assn. Desert-Wise Landscape Tour is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event features self-guided tours of five water-wise Morongo Basin landscapes in Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree and Landers, along with docent-guided visits to the Mojave Desert Land Trust and Joshua Basin Water District Demonstration Garden. Tickets are $10 ($5 for members) and can be purchased online. The website also features videos of "desert-wise" landscapes from past tours. *mbconservation.org*

APRIL 29-30

The Riverside Community Flower Show & Garden Tours' Diamond Jubilee Festival of Flowers celebrates its 75th year with self-guided tours in nine Riverside-area gardens between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. both days, along with a free flower show at the Elks Lodge, 6166 Brockton Ave., from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with floral displays, crafts and garden art for sale. A wristband for admission is $10, children under 16 enter free. *riversideflowershow.com*

The 30th Floral Park Home & Garden Tour in North Santa Ana features tours of historic homes and gardens from the 1920s to the 1950s from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. The tour also includes a vintage automobile display, food from local restaurants, a beer and wine garden and shopping opportunities. Proceeds support community scholarships and nonprofit organizations. Tickets for the tour are $45 if purchased ahead online by April 24 or $50 if purchased the day of the event. *floralparkhometour.com*

MAY 6

The Garden Conservancy Los Angeles Open Days Tours in Santa Monica: Explore four private gardens in Santa Monica — the Urban Wildlife Habitat, the Edna May Garden, Casa Nancina and the Adams Family Garden. Tickets are $10 per garden ($5 for members) and available online only. Children 12 and under enter free with an accompanying adult. *gardenconservancy.org*

The Laguna Beach Garden Club 18th Gate & Garden Tour begins at the Laguna Beach County Water District's Bruce Scherer Waterwise and Fire-Safe Gardens at 306 3rd St. in Laguna, with special buses shuttling ticket holders to tours of seven Laguna-area gardens. Mexican fare and artisanal margaritas will be available for purchase along with free homemade baked goods. Artists will be painting canvases in several gardens and visitors wearing a "festive garden party hat" will be entered in the tour's hat contest. Proceeds support school gardens, local scholarships and community projects; last year's event netted more than $40,000. The tours run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m, with the last entry scheduled at 2 p.m. Children are not permitted. Timed-entry tickets purchased by April 28 are $60 or $80 for entry anytime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. along with tickets for one food item and one drink. *lagunabeachgardenclub.org*

MONTE STUCK

KIMBERLY Crest Gardens in Redlands: tour April 22-23.

MAY 6-7

The Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour features self-guided tours of 43 gardens — 14 of which are new to the tour — from Long Beach to San Clemente from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. A list of the gardens and their addresses is on the Mary Lou Heard Foundation website, but plan ahead because some of the gardens are open to visitors on only one of the days. The tour is free but donation jars will be set out at the gardens to support the Sheepfold, a crisis center for women and children in Orange that has long been the beneficiary of the foundation's annual tours. *heardsgardentour.com*

MAY 7

The 25th Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Assn. & Hospice Camarillo Garden Tour features art exhibits and demonstrations, live music, refreshments and a garden-themed boutique in addition to tours of five Camarillo gardens from noon to 4 p.m. Artists from the Pastel Society of the Gold Coast will give demonstrations at each garden. Tickets are $30 online. Proceeds benefit the association's hospice program in Camarillo. *lmvna.org*

MAY 11

The 26th Newport Harbor Home & Garden Tour features stops at seven homes and gardens near Newport Harbor High School, along with lunch, a "boutique" of home decor and accessories vendors and an afternoon reception at Barclay Butera Interiors between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The home and garden tours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is a fundraiser for the Newport Harbor Educational Foundation to support academic programs and faculty at Newport Harbor High School. Tickets can be purchased online for $100 ($110 after April 28, if still available). *newportharborhometour.com*

MAY 13

West Floral Park and Jack Fisher Park Neighborhoods Open Garden Day features eight garden tours in two tree-lined neighborhoods of vintage homes in North Santa Ana, along with live music, art displays, garden talks and demonstrations, cooking demonstrations and vendors selling food and garden products from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ticket sales begin March 27 online for $20, or $25 if purchased the day of the event, at West Santa Clara and North Westwood avenues in Santa Ana. *opengardenday.com*

MAY 20

San Clemente Garden Club 2023 Garden Tour features self-guided tours and live entertainment at five San Clemente-area gardens from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online before the event for $35 ($30 each if purchasing four or more). Day-of tickets are $45 and must be purchased in person, at a location that will be announced on the website after 6 p.m. on May 19. Proceeds from the tour support the San Clemente Garden Club College Scholarship and Junior Gardeners programs as well as conservation organization and civic beautification projects in the city of San Clemente. *sanclementegardenclub.com*

MAY 21

The Rossmoor Woman's Club 19th Garden Tour features self-guided tours of six private gardens in the Rossmoor-Los Alamitos area of Orange County, just north of Seal Beach, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are $20. They can be purchased online after April 15 at several area shops or, on the day of the tour, at the club's outdoor marketplace, featuring music, food, craft and plant sales in Arbor Village, 10651 Los Alamitos Blvd. in Los Alamitos. Net proceeds from the tours support local charities. *rossmoorwomansclub.org*

Photographs from the Barbara Hansen estate

BARBARA HANSEN, left, from her book "Mexican Cookery." She "covered food right up to the end," a friend notes. Below with costume designer Edith Head.

AN APPRECIATION

A FOOD INFLUENCER BEFORE WE HAD THE TERM

BARBARA HANSEN CHAMPIONED CUISINES FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

BY LAURIE OCHOA

THE FOOD WORLD LOST an important, pioneering voice in this paper's coverage of the many cuisines that have found a home in Southern California with the recent death of journalist and author Barbara Hansen. She died at age 90 on Jan. 28, a day after being taken off life support at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center following a fall she suffered late that month. ¶ Hansen, who left her job at The Times in 2006 but wrote articles for the paper through 2017, was a much-loved journalist and active social media correspondent who inspired a range of personalities, including celebrity chef Jet Tila, writer-event curator Bill Esparza and novelist Kim Fay, who modeled a key character in her 2022 bestseller "Love & Saffron" after Hansen.

"Before the debut of the late Jonathan Gold and his Counter Intelligence column, Angelenos discovered the international cuisines of L.A. by way of Barbara," Fay said last year at Culver City's Village Well Books & Coffee during an interview with Hansen to promote "Love & Saffron." "She created the Border Line food column at the Los Angeles Times beginning in 1974 … chronicling L.A.'s Mexican food scene, including the newspaper's first recipe to be printed in Spanish. But even before Border Line, Barbara was a champion for the city's international flavors. In the single year of 1969 she wrote about Israeli consul dinners, kosher caterers, L.A. soul food and the cuisines of Egypt, Haiti, the Philippines, Colombia, Portugal, Nicaragua, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Honduras, all with recipes."

In addition to continuing her freelance writing for L.A. Weekly, Saveur, Bon Appétit and other publications after leaving The Times, Hansen maintained two websites, Table Conversation and EatMx, the latter focused on Mexican cuisine. She was also a big Instagram fan and had a devoted following that might have made her the most popular 90-year-old food influencer. "I think Instagram is fun," she told Fay. "It's full of life and it's an *immediate* contact with people."

"She loved and covered food right up to the end," said her friend and fellow writer and historian Gerry Furth-Sides, who edits the website Local Food Eater. The day before Hansen's fall, the two were together for a pulao rice demonstration at the downtown L.A. location of Sridhar Sambangi's South Indian restaurant Banana Leaf — "a restaurant she inspired," Furth-Sides said, after Hansen took daylong cooking lessons at Sambangi's home and encouraged him to open a place of his own.

On the way to the rice lesson at Banana Leaf, Furth-Sides said, she and Hansen stopped at Jons Fresh Marketplace, "where the manager, Jay, caught up with her because he found the apricot leather she loved, and she was so happy."

Furth-Sides added that Hansen was planning to write a guide to the Indian restaurants of Venice Boulevard (an update of a story she wrote for L.A. Weekly in 2018) for Westways magazine and had been planning to lead a culinary excursion of the area this summer for Melting Pot Food Tours.

It doesn't surprise me that Hansen, a James Beard Award winner for her 2003 Times story "Mezcal: Good Drink, Bad Rap," never really retired from food writing. I had the privilege of working with her when I was deputy food editor and then food editor of this paper in the late 1990s, and witnessed her tireless enthusiasm for exploring restaurants — especially if they hadn't received a lot of press attention — and learning from cooks from all over the world.

"Isn't it just marvelous?" she'd often say if you told her you'd followed up on one of her recommendations.

After news of Hansen's death started circulating, Tila wrote on Facebook that when he first encountered her, "I was 24, confused about my life, career and direction. I was teaching cooking classes out of my mom's back yard … working odd jobs and not sure if cooking was my path. Barbara Hansen quietly paid the 35 bucks [and] attended the class. She wrote the cover story in the L.A. Times that gave me the spark and inspiration that started my journey. She … wrote a letter of recommendation that helped me enter culinary school. Then helped me with my L.A. Times Food section internship … and guided [me] through writing my first published articles. Taught me how to write food reviews. Reminded me to eat, taste and be mindful about the history of the food and love the people who made it."

Her appreciation for the people who made the food she loved may have been the key to Hansen's strength as a reporter — if she liked something she ate, she always wanted to meet the cooks and learn from them.

L.A. Times Today producer Nicolette Medina shared a story about her father meeting Hansen when he was installing a floor in the Times Test Kitchen at the paper's old downtown headquarters. The two got to talking, and when Hansen heard about the quick, one-pan chile verde he learned from his mom, she got the recipe, tested it and then asked him to bring in a clean shirt the next day for a photo shoot. On Nov. 29, 1979, the story, his recipe and photo were published in the Food section. As Medina wrote in her appreciation of Hansen, the story "was one of the biggest highlights of his life. He was a simple guy from East L.A. who supported his family by pouring cement and loving them by cooking tasty dinners every night. If the L.A. Times said his cooking was good … it was good … and he never let anyone forget it!"

Hansen's cookbooks, including "Cooking California Style," "Good Bread," "Mexican Cookery," "Barbara Hansen's Taste of Southeast Asia" and "Southeast Asian Cooking," showed her intense curiosity about the world and her passion for travel. I remember that before Jonathan Gold and I traveled to Singapore many years back, she was extremely generous with food recommendations, and nearly every food person we encountered there seemed to have met and admired her.

"Barbara was an intrepid solo traveler who traveled 12 times to India alone," Furth-Sides said. "She has notebooks on her local and international trips going back to 1964."

When former L.A. Times Food editor and current Substack columnist Ruth Reichl and I were talking about Hansen not long after her death, she said admiringly, "Barbara always had a restless palate."

There are plans, Furth-Sides said, to place Hansen's notebooks into a permanent collection, along with the many food books she acquired from all over the world.

If you have a chance to go through Hansen's older, pre-internet work on a site like *newspapers.com*, you'll get a fascinating look at the progression in attitudes about what was once known as "ethnic" food — a term Hansen was one of the first to reject "because it sounds like something apart, something that doesn't fit into the mainstream. But that's not the case," she told an audience gathered in 2010 by the Culinary Historians of Southern California.

Above all, Hansen felt that food writing wasn't an exclusive club. When Fay expressed amazement that Hansen seemed to be busier than ever at 90, Hansen said, "I think food is an unending interest and anybody anywhere can pursue that in their own fashion because it's all around us. And especially in L.A. … where we are now, the food opportunities are fantastic. And I don't mean just the high-end, celebrity-chef-pursuing approach to food, I mean the markets and people and tiny places. And just great food."

> 'I think food is an unending interest and anybody anywhere can pursue that in their own fashion because it's all around us.'
>
> — BARBARA HANSEN

Brandon Ly

Why a new Girl Scout cookie costs a lot of dough

AN ONLINE EXCLUSIVE LEADS TO $200 RESALES. THESE BROWNIES ARE MIFFED.

BY CINDY CARCAMO

DID YOU hear about the elusive new Girl Scout cookie, the Raspberry Rally?

This year was my daughter's first as a Girl Scout and her first time peddling cookies to neighbors, friends and complete strangers. Initially, Cora, 8, was stoked to put on her Brownie vest and pull her red wagon, stacked precariously high with $6 boxes of treats, around our Santa Ana neighborhood.

Like a lot of people, we were excited about the new cookie — but we never actually got to see any Raspberry Rally cookies or taste them. And we were puzzled and annoyed when we found out that the new cookies were being resold online for $20, $50 or even $200 a box.

I set out to find out why.

The Raspberry Rally craze started when the Girl Scouts decided to try something new with its annual cookie sale. For the first time, a new cookie flavor was sold as an online exclusive. The organization reasoned that the move would help Girl Scouts learn online and e-commerce business skills. Bucking tradition, Girl Scouts would not be getting their hands on any Raspberry Rally cookies to sell at booths or door-to-door.

Instead, girls were encouraged to share a link with buyers who could then purchase online and have the delectable raspberry-infused treats shipped, at an extra cost, directly to their homes. (This didn't make sense to me. My second-grader sometimes can't even make correct change, let alone start her own e-commerce business.)

The new parameters created a vacuum in the market and something of a buying frenzy online, causing the raspberry-infused cookie to sell out within hours in the Los Angeles area, Girl Scouts officials said. The $6 cookie boxes then started reselling on eBay and other online outfits at astronomical markups.

When I told Cora about the eBay prices, her face crumpled with indignation. "You've got to be joking," she huffed. "I never got the chance to taste the cookie. I never even got to hold the box."

Cora's troop leader moms, Nayeli Castillo and Liz Lopez, agreed it was unrealistic for the troop — composed of six second-graders — to sell cookies online.

"My daughter doesn't have a smartphone; how is she going to share the link?" asked Castillo, whose 7-year-old, Luna, is in the troop. "Some girls are too young to even understand the concept of asking people to buy from them online. It takes away from the experience of them selling cookies."

As a result, the work fell on the parents — mostly mothers — of Girl Scout Troop 2329 in Santa Ana to make the initial sales happen. Most of us took to our smartphones, launching mass texts to family, friends and co-workers with desperate pleas: "Can you support our troop?"

Some attached a photo of their daughter, clad in her brown vest. Others dispatched videos of their Brownie making her best pitch. In between making lunches, school dropoffs, full-time jobs, making dinner, school pickups, music lessons, sports (the list goes on), we hawked cookies on the side.

E-COMMERCE GOALS

The push for more online cookie selling was in response to older Girl Scouts who told leaders they wanted to sharpen their e-commerce skills, said Theresa Edy-Kiene, chief executive of Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles.

But why make the Raspberry Rally out of reach to their younger comrades who may still want to sell the cookies in hand and in person? Edy-Kiene said the decision wasn't up to her.

"I do wish that girls had the opportunity, like Cora, to put her hands on the box, to taste the cookie, to be able to talk to customers about it. I think that's great," Edy-Kiene said.

She didn't get a chance to taste the Raspberry Rally either. "Who knows. Maybe there was an order for 300 cases and that person is on eBay right now," Edy-Kiene said. "The behavior is so disappointing."

But she focused on the positive. Her council, the second largest in the nation with 33,000 girls, sold 4.9 million packages of cookies this year. The fundraiser makes up about 68% of the council's total budget, she said. Half of the money funds a host of programs, including an emerging leader program for older girls, camp and mental health programs.

It's unclear whether the Girl Scouts will continue with online exclusives. Edy-Kiene said there is always a debrief after cookie season, for which Girl Scouts executives gather to survey results, feedback and other data from the season to make decisions for next year.

Cora spent hours walking our neighborhood, pulling a red wagon stacked high with boxes of the classic Girl Scout cookie varieties. While out selling, whenever someone asked for the new Raspberry Rally cookie, Cora pivoted with ease.

"Sorry, we didn't get any," she'd say and flash a cherubic grin. "But we do have Thin Mints, Caramel deLites, Adventurefuls, Trefoils and delicious Lemonades — they're my favorite."

Cora just didn't understand why anyone would pay more than $6 for Raspberry Rally cookies. "What a waste of money," she snickered.

After school dropoff, she shared the news with Valerie, her friend and fellow Girl Scout Brownie in her troop. "Yeah, people shouldn't buy them," Valerie said, shaking her head. "It's wasteful."

The Girl Scout cookie season is over for us here in Orange and Los Angeles counties, though it continues for others elsewhere. Frankly, after six weeks of pushing sugar and carbs, we were burnt out. In total our troop sold 1,500 boxes of cookies. We get 90 cents per box. The girls will have about $1,350 for an outing and to donate to a local charity.

One Friday evening I had to convince my daughter to go to one of our assigned booths at a Stater Bros. It was cold and raining, but we rallied with Juana Larios and her daughter Maxine.

Between spurts of dancing and horsing around, the girls hustled. "Don't you want some Girl Scout cookies with that ice cream?" Maxine asked one customer exiting the store with a pint of gelato.

Whenever someone bought more than two boxes, we yelled out "Yay" in unison.

Two hours later, we'd sold all our packages. We were so elated that we'd wrapped up cookie season that we'd forgotten all about the Raspberry Rally fiasco. Honestly, only one person asked for the treat that evening.

G.I.R.L.
G.I.R.L.
G.I.R.L.

IN-PERSON sales, such as Emma Diaz's last year in Mar Vista, were supplemented this year with an online exclusive. All did not go according to plan.

Photographs by Francine Orr Los Angeles Times

QUICK BITES

Michelin peek

> In preview of Michelin's 2023 update to its California-wide dining guide, the gustatory compendium added six new restaurants to the guide this month. In addition to stars, Michelin also awards nods for value and affordability (Bib Gourmands) as well as noteworthy openings; the six additions — three of which are in the Los Angeles area — could mean they'll garner any of these notations in the update. Downtown's yakiniku-style, wagyu-focused Japanese restaurant Niku X is now in the state's Michelin guide, as is Leona's Sushi House, a Studio City sushi bar, robataya and Japanese fusion spot from Matsuhisa and Asanebo vet Shigenori Fujimoto. City of Industry's Sushi Yuen, which specializes in edomae sushi and ryori-style kaiseki, is also a newcomer. Other new entries include Laguna Beach's Selanne Steak Tavern, San Diego's Mabel's Gone Fishing and San Francisco's Basang. Niku X executive chef Shin Thompson said, "It's great that we're being recognized; it's more eyes on the restaurant and what we do." His now-closed Chicago restaurant Bonsoirée garnered one Michelin star in both 2011 and 2012, and he noticed guests traveling from far-off locales to dine there. The fully updated California guide is slated for release later this year. *guide.michelin.com/us/en/california/restaurants*

Topanga hall

> Two dozen restaurants, coffee shops, bars and pop-ups are headed to a new food hall in Canoga Park this spring, when Topanga Social opens at the Westfield Topanga shopping center. The 50,000-square-foot food hall will host three bars — including a "margarita garden" — and outposts of Glendale's Mini Kabob, an L.A. Times 101 list awardee; West 3rd Street's Slab barbecue; Chinatown's Katsu Sando and Amboy Quality Burgers; West Hollywood's Dtown Pizzeria; Hollywood's Mad Lab Coffee; and former Smorgasburg vendor Shrimp Daddy. *6600 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Canoga Park, eatplaytopangasocial.com*

Baroo returns

> Chef Kwang Uh's Baroo — lauded by Jonathan Gold as "a taste of the future" — is set to return in a new location, with a new format. "We thought we were going to do basically a larger version of the old, casual Baroo," which closed in 2018, said Mina Park, co-owner of the restaurant and Uh's wife, "but after it took so long, we figured that if we were going to do Baroo, we should just do it exactly the way that we always dreamed of doing: Rather than the casual one, we're just going to do a more kind of relaxed fine dining." The duo hope to open in late June in the Arts District. They hope that a tasting-menu format will help them control their operating costs and limit food waste as well as expand upon the style and flavor profiles that Uh developed in the original location. He has been studying the traditional Korean concept of saju-myungri, or the balance of the five elements, and plans to showcase this practice through dishes made and inspired by wood, fire, water, metal and earth or soil, in the new location. "This is kind of what Korean traditional medicine is based in," Park said, "and we want to reflect those principles in the food." Uh and Park's quick and casual food stall, Shiku, continues in Grand Central Market. *baroolosangeles.com*

— Stephanie Breijo

Susana Sanchez
Los Angeles Times

L.A. AFFAIRS

Sealed with KISS

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO SAY 'I LIKE YOU,' SO I MADE A MIXTAPE

BY YVONNE PASQUINI

MICHELA BUTTIGNOL For The Times

ON THE FIRST day of our magazine internship, we interns were instructed to write our names on Polaroids of ourselves tacked up in the break room. I was confident a surefire way to impress everyone was to add "Abuse me, I'm an intern" on mine.

To my surprise, none of the higher-ups responded with a high-five, a knowing nod in the hallway or an invitation to a power lunch. Only Dan, one of the other editorial interns, laughed so hard I could hear him back at my desk.

"I can't believe you wrote that!" he said.

There was something about Dan. Maybe it was his cute Buddy Holly glasses, his toothy grin or the fact he could join me in belting out a KISS song. (Any guy who appreciated man makeup and so-bad-they're-good lyrics deserved to be noticed.) And after my first-day gaffe, he continued to respond to my antics with the same hearty laugh.

When our Washington, D.C., internship ended, Dan headed back to Los Angeles and USC. I returned to college in New York, and we kept in touch via AOL Instant Messenger, where our friendship blossomed as we shared stories about our day-to-day lives.

Whether it was my natural gift for mistakes at the office, my talent for romantic blunders or my flair for putting my foot in my mouth, I told Dan everything, hoping to get a laugh. When I had a bad date or called an important client by the wrong name, I was mortified. But replaying the moment to Dan with some self-deprecating humor almost made me sound cool, in a slacker kind of way. Dan was always there to respond with a supportive "LOL" and to entertain with a funny tale of his own.

After years of daily banter, it dawned on me that I was spending a considerable amount of time chatting to a guy across the country who was "just a friend." Humor was how we connected, but now I had a problem. How do I tell him seriously, "I like you"?

I did the most obvious thing I could think of: I mailed him a totally romantic Valentine's Day-themed mixtape featuring thrash metal and a KISS song about creeping on a high schooler. I included a note that said, "Don't get any ideas. We're just friends." He didn't read between the lines.

Next move: I would take a vacation to California. Surely, in person I would be so funny and clever he couldn't help but fall for me. When Dan picked me up at Los Angeles International Airport looking exactly the same (cute!), it had been three years since we'd last seen each other.

Nerves took over a few hours later when, tucked into a cozy booth at St. Nick's pub, I sensed our conversation faltering without the crutch of the keyboard. I chugged three vodka cranberries hoping they would help me relax. By the time we reached Dan's Park La Brea apartment, without discussing our sleeping arrangement, I took it upon myself to flop face down on his bed and pass out.

The next day, we road-tripped to San Francisco. When I attempted to make amends with a humorous story, he stared from the driver's seat.

"You told me this last night," he said. Gulp.

"I'm embarrassed," I said, feeling this trip was turning into a disaster — and this time, I couldn't make it better in my retelling. He said nothing.

A stop at McDonald's promised relief from the conversation until somehow, within the first five minutes, I managed to dump an entire large soda on my shirt. Could this get any worse?

But then I heard it: Dan's big laugh. I looked up and saw his eyes light up and his broad smile, and I found myself laughing too. I had to admit, it was classic me.

We walked around San Francisco, but I couldn't pay attention to the city, only to the man beside me. In person, Dan's eyes lingered on me when I spoke, his hand brushed over mine as we walked. We chuckled about my nervousness on the first night. He said he was nervous too. I could tell. On the second night, it was Dan who sought liquid courage at the bar. Our "rendezvous" in a hotel turned into another snore fest.

Back in L.A., days later on his couch, I finally asked, "Are we friends or more than friends or just completely hopeless?" He laughed and said, "All I know, I can't stand the idea of not seeing you all the time."

We started kissing, and it was romantic in that "Rock and Roll All Nite"-playing-on-his-stereo kind of way.

Turns out, I didn't have to come up with a too-clever way to tell him I liked him. I just had to be vulnerable to say it without a jokey line to hide behind.

Twenty years later, Dan and I have long gotten rid of our AOL accounts. We still love to laugh, but thank God, I have learned to talk to him seriously. Together, we have navigated lots of grown-up things: marriage, two cross-country moves, careers (going much better, thanks), a kid, deaths and middle age.

I have come to realize that the most important moments — even getting together with the love of your life — never come out the way you think they should, the way you would have written it with all the wit and humor in place.

Life's funny that way.

> *The author is a freelance writer and creative director living in Los Angeles. Find her on Instagram: @yvonne_pasquini*

L.A. Affairs chronicles the search for romantic love in all its glorious expressions in the L.A. area, and we want to hear your true story. We pay $300 for a published essay. Email LAAffairs@latimes.com. You can find past columns at *latimes.com/laaffairs*.

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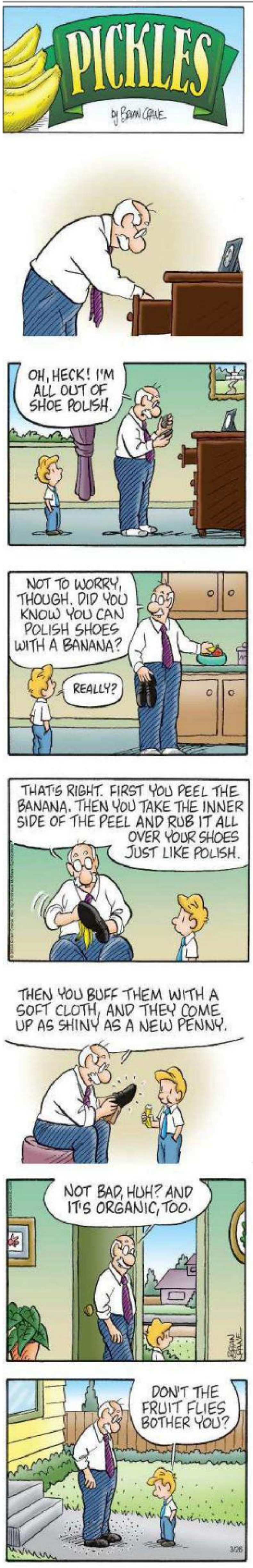
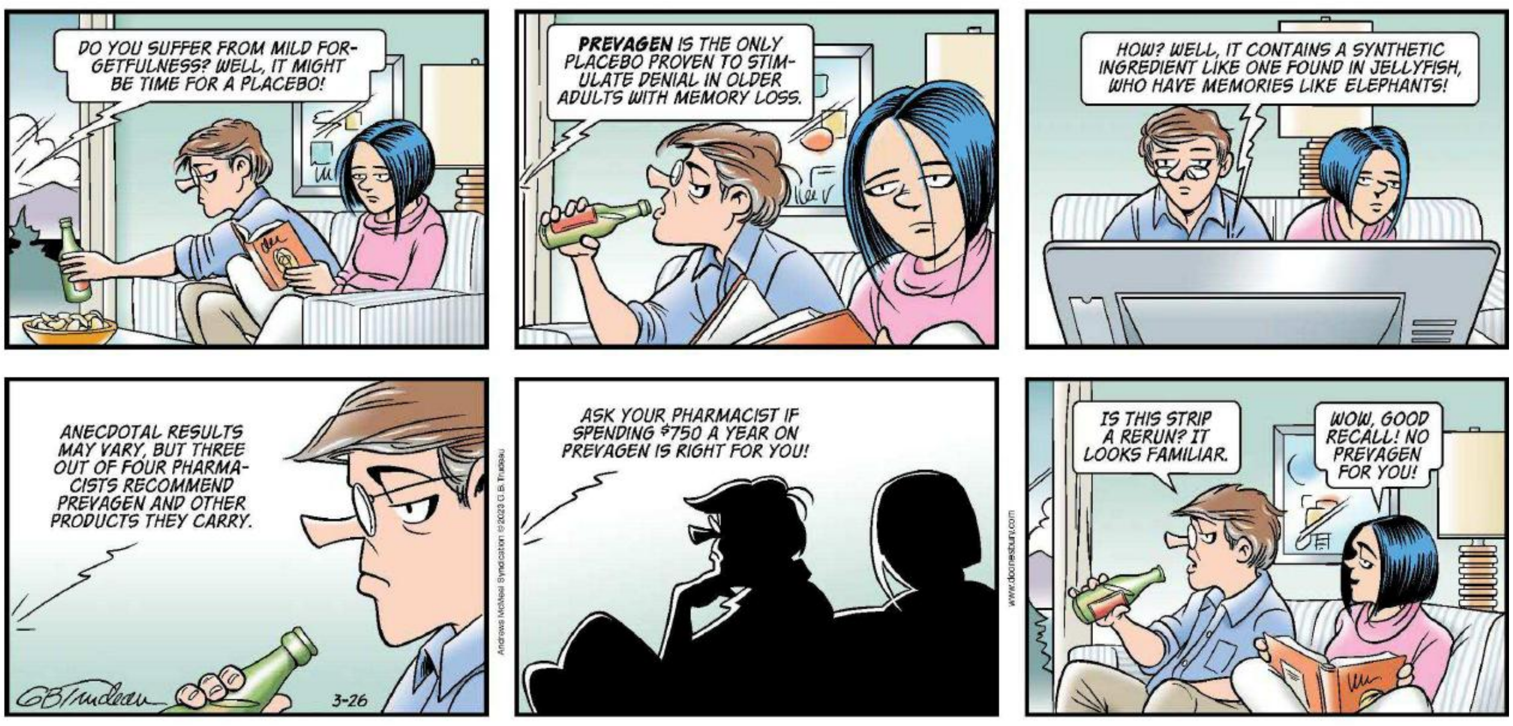
SUNDAY COMICS

Los Angeles Times
MARCH 26, 2023


PICKLES
by Brian Crane
OH, HECK! I'M ALL OUT OF SHOE POLISH.
NOT TO WORRY, THOUGH. DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN POLISH SHOES WITH A BANANA?
REALLY?
THAT'S RIGHT. FIRST YOU PEEL THE BANANA. THEN YOU TAKE THE INNER SIDE OF THE PEEL AND RUB IT ALL OVER YOUR SHOES JUST LIKE POLISH.
THEN YOU BUFF THEM WITH A SOFT CLOTH, AND THEY COME UP AS SHINY AS A NEW PENNY.
NOT BAD, HUH? AND IT'S ORGANIC, TOO.
Brian Crane
DON'T THE FRUIT FLIES BOTHER YOU?
3/26

DOONESBURY By Garry Trudeau


DO YOU SUFFER FROM MILD FORGETFULNESS? WELL, IT MIGHT BE TIME FOR A PLACEBO!
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HOW? WELL, IT CONTAINS A SYNTHETIC INGREDIENT LIKE ONE FOUND IN JELLYFISH, WHO HAVE MEMORIES LIKE ELEPHANTS!
ANECDOTAL RESULTS MAY VARY, BUT THREE OUT OF FOUR PHARMACISTS RECOMMEND PREVAGEN AND OTHER PRODUCTS THEY CARRY.
GBTrudeau
3-26
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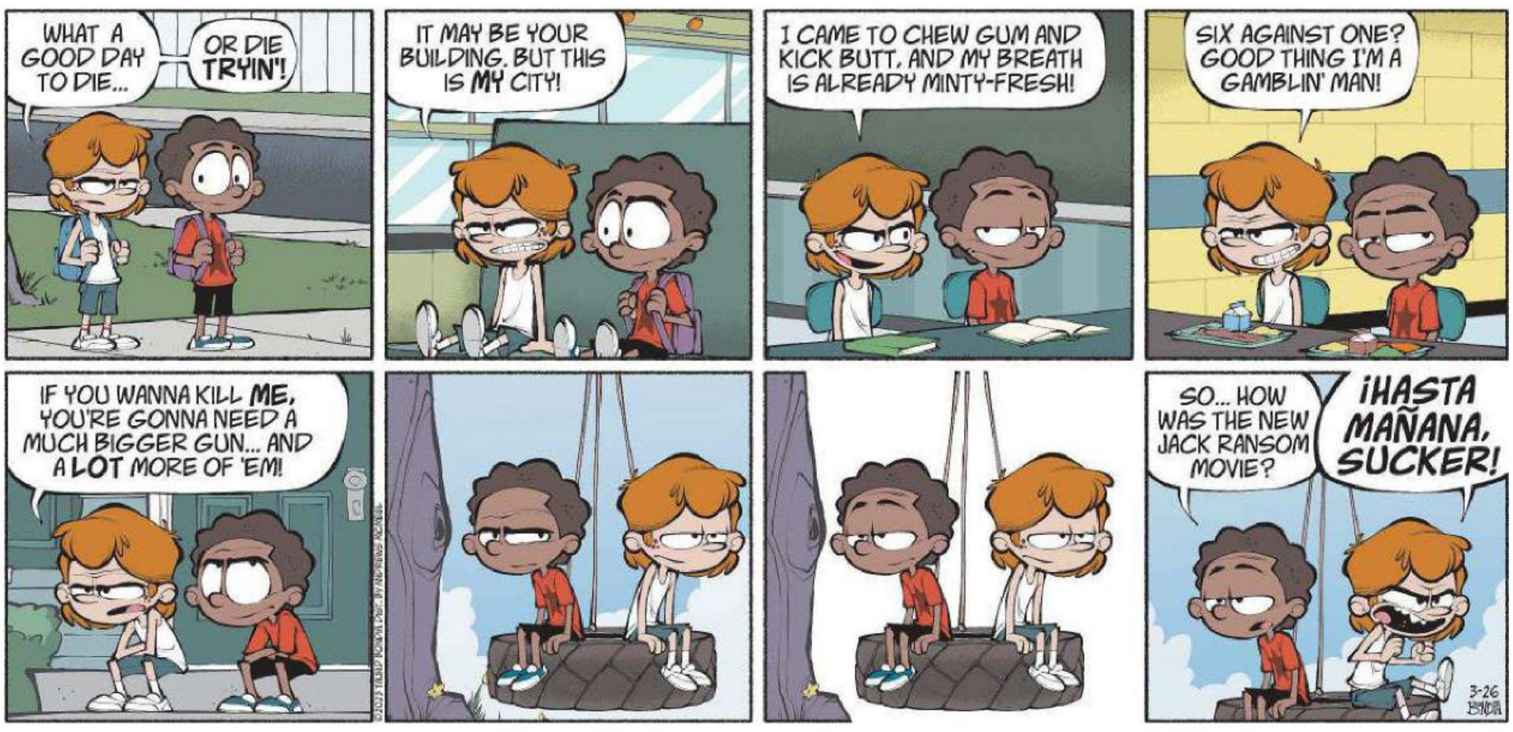
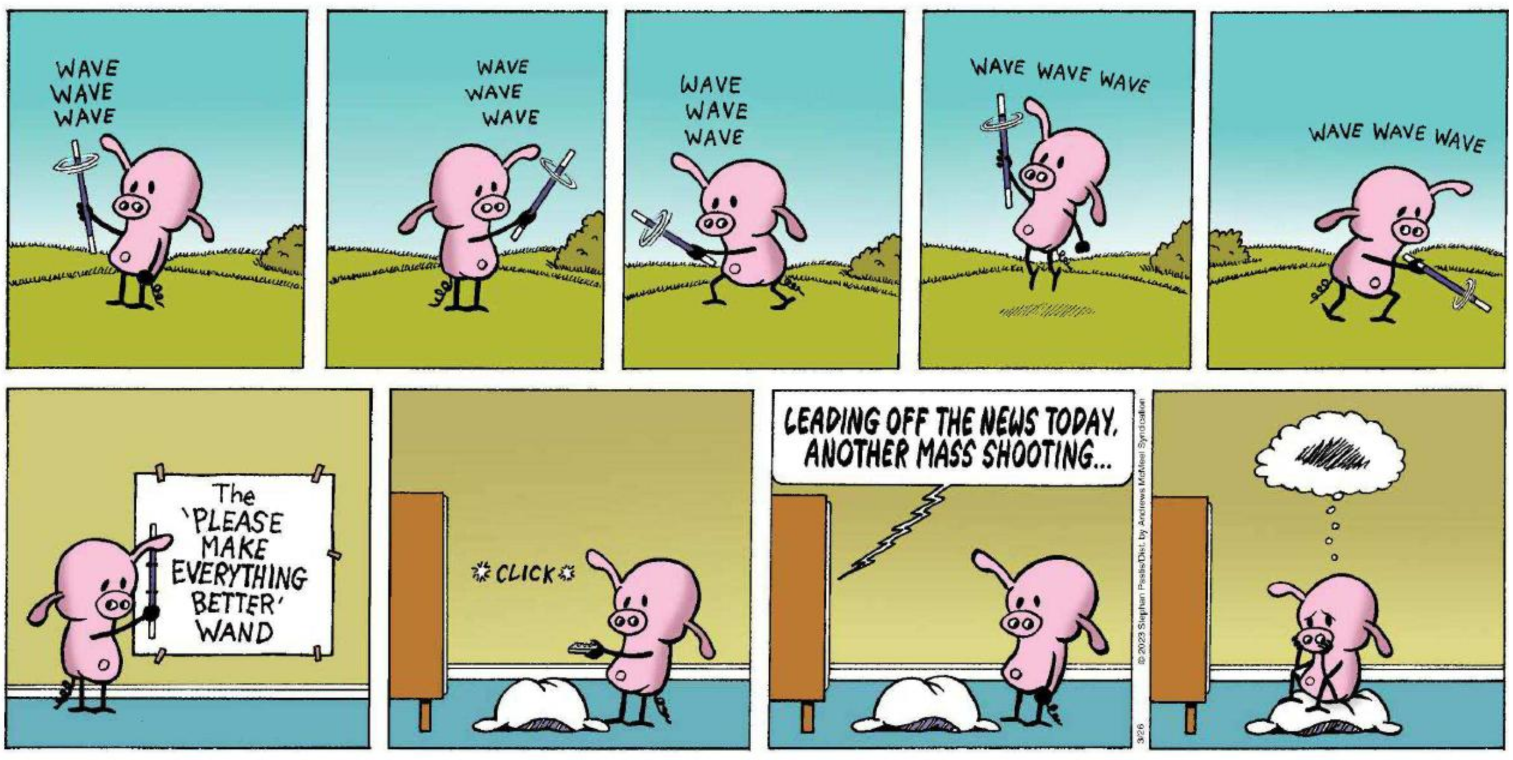
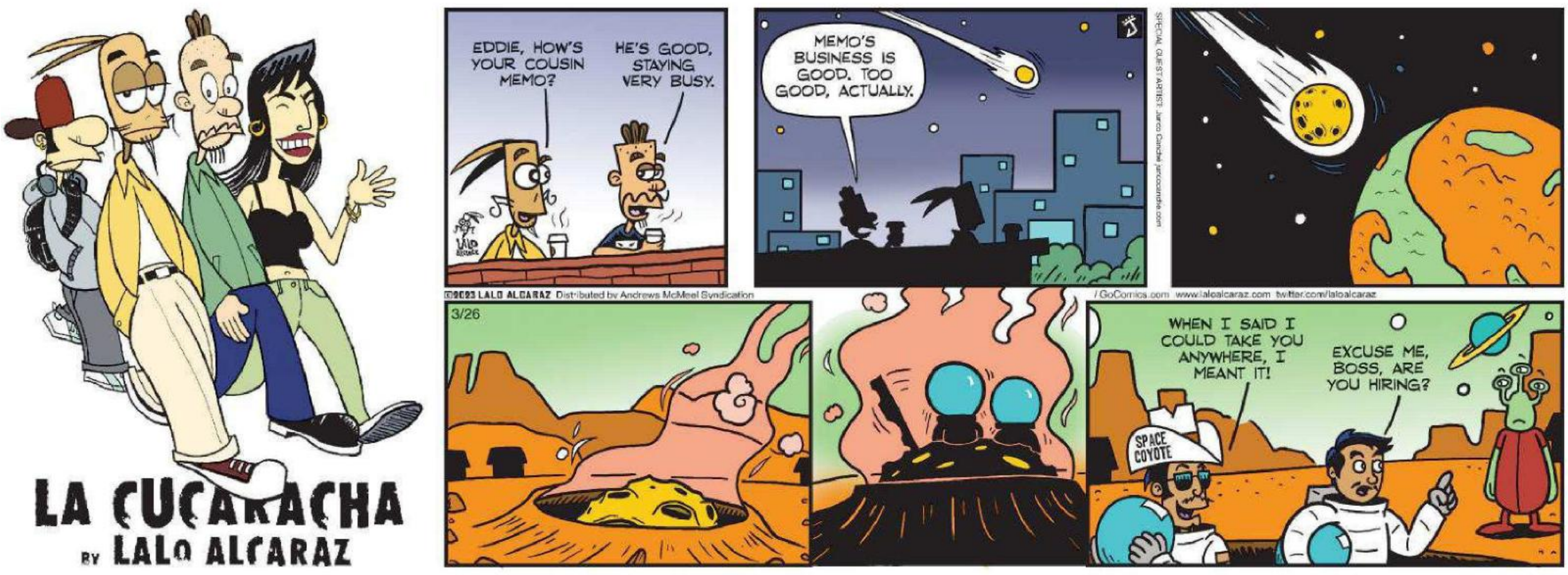
ASK YOUR PHARMACIST IF SPENDING $750 A YEAR ON PREVAGEN IS RIGHT FOR YOU!
www.doonesbury.com
IS THIS STRIP A RERUN? IT LOOKS FAMILIAR.
WOW, GOOD RECALL! NO PREVAGEN FOR YOU!

CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia


WHAT A GOOD DAY TO DIE...
OR DIE TRYIN'!
IT MAY BE YOUR BUILDING. BUT THIS IS MY CITY!
I CAME TO CHEW GUM AND KICK BUTT. AND MY BREATH IS ALREADY MINTY-FRESH!
SIX AGAINST ONE? GOOD THING I'M A GAMBLIN' MAN!
IF YOU WANNA KILL ME, YOU'RE GONNA NEED A MUCH BIGGER GUN... AND A LOT MORE OF 'EM!
©2023 Tauhid Bondia Dist. by Andrews McMeel
SO... HOW WAS THE NEW JACK RANSOM MOVIE?
¡HASTA MAÑANA, SUCKER!
3-26
BONDIA

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


WAVE WAVE WAVE
WAVE WAVE WAVE
WAVE WAVE WAVE
WAVE WAVE WAVE
WAVE WAVE WAVE
The 'PLEASE MAKE EVERYTHING BETTER' WAND
CLICK
LEADING OFF THE NEWS TODAY, ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING...
© 2023 Stephan Pastis/Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
3/26


LA CUCARACHA
BY LALO ALCARAZ
EDDIE, HOW'S YOUR COUSIN MEMO?
HE'S GOOD, STAYING VERY BUSY.
LALO ALCARAZ
MEMO'S BUSINESS IS GOOD. TOO GOOD, ACTUALLY.
SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST: Jarco Canche jarcocanche.com
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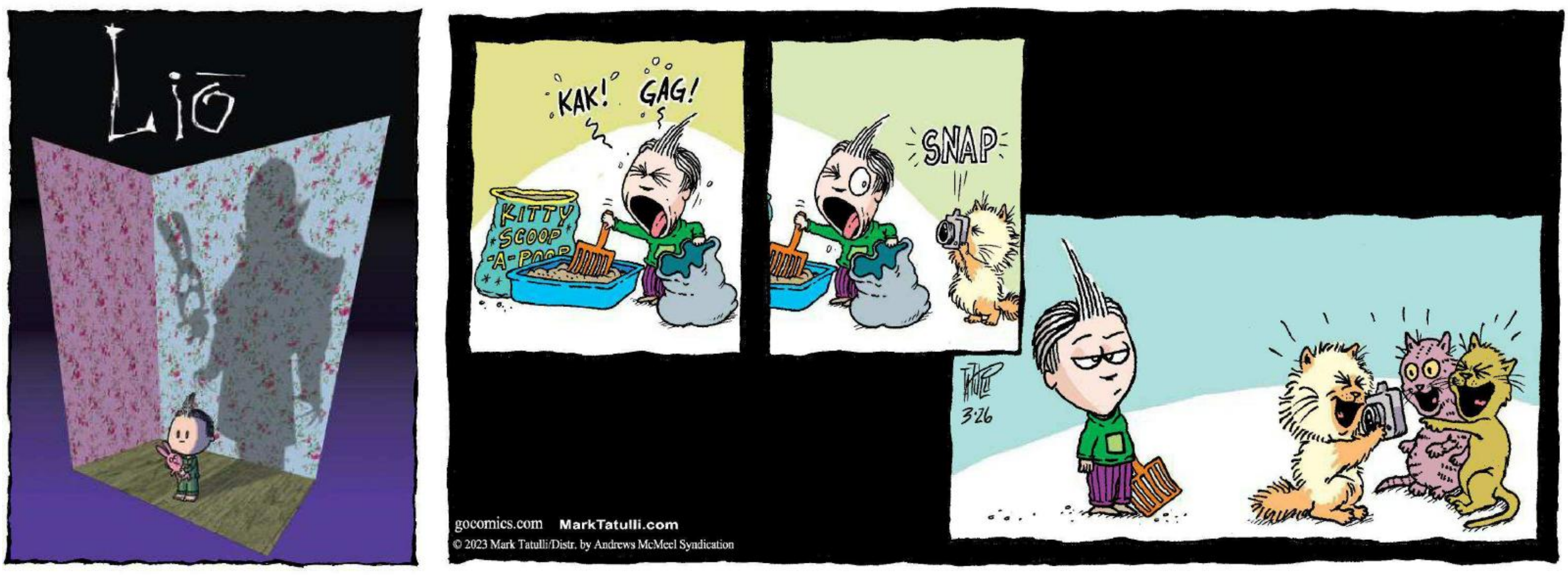
/GoComics.com www.laloalcaraz.com twitter.com/laloalcaraz
3/26
WHEN I SAID I COULD TAKE YOU ANYWHERE, I MEANT IT!
EXCUSE ME, BOSS, ARE YOU HIRING?
SPACE COYOTE


Lio
KAK! GAG!
KITTY SCOOP-A-POOP
SNAP
TATULLI
3·26
gocomics.com MarkTatulli.com
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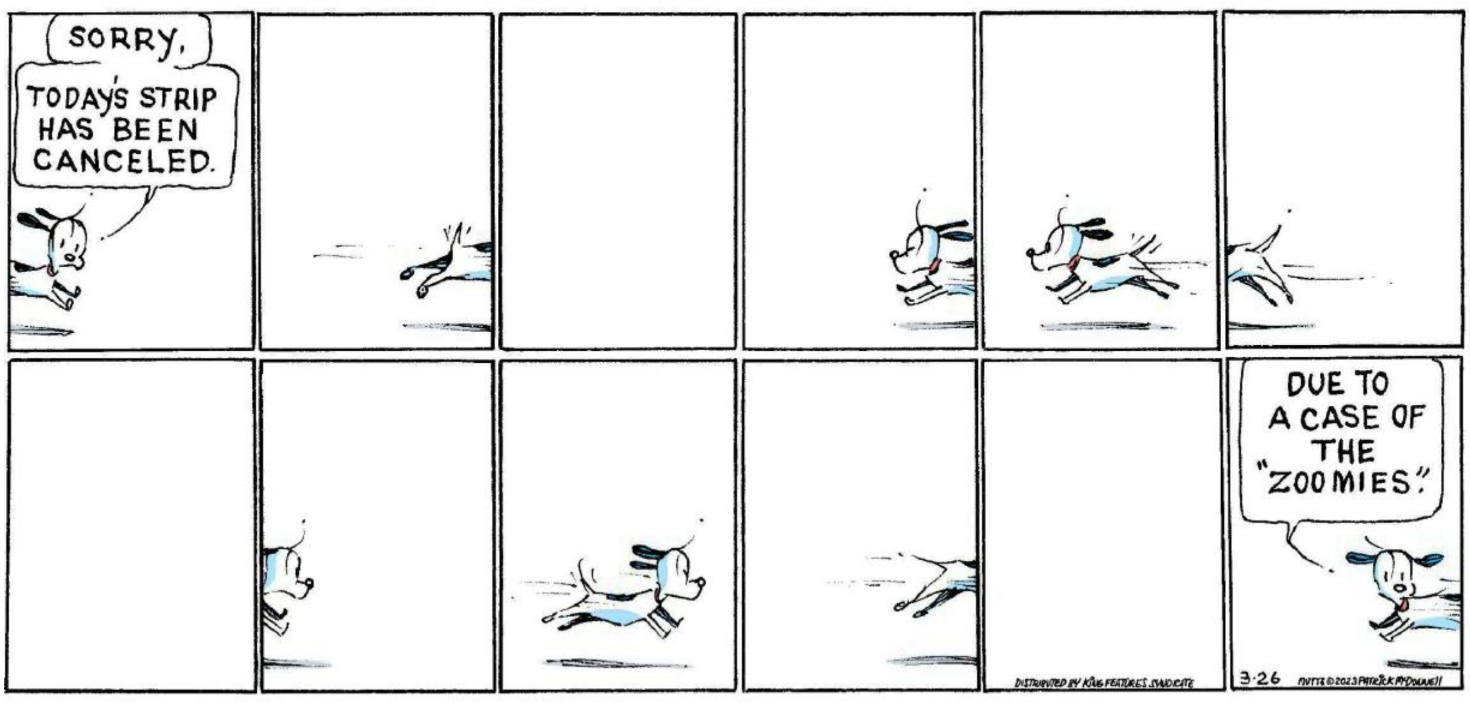
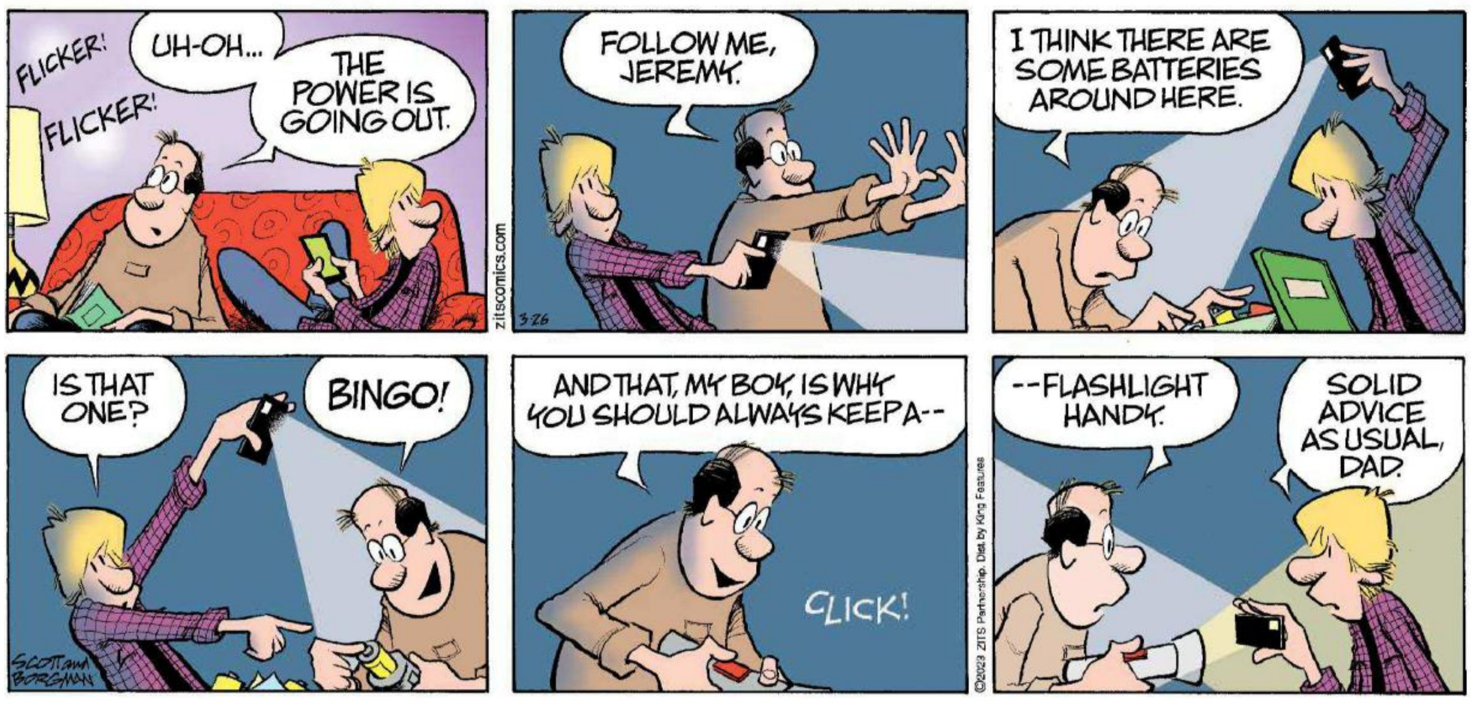
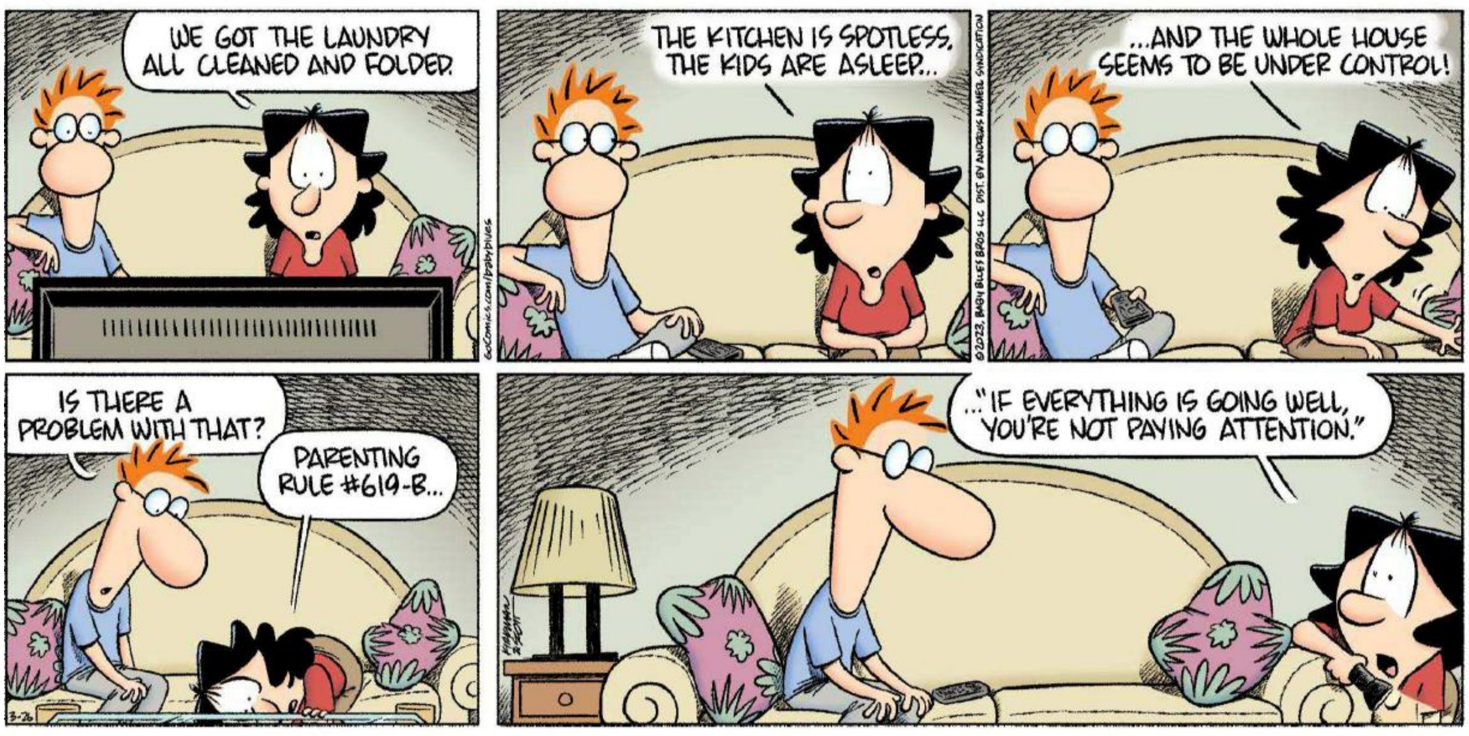
MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell


SORRY,
TODAY'S STRIP HAS BEEN CANCELED.
DUE TO A CASE OF THE "ZOOMIES".
DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
3·26 MUTTS ©2023 PATRICK McDONNELL

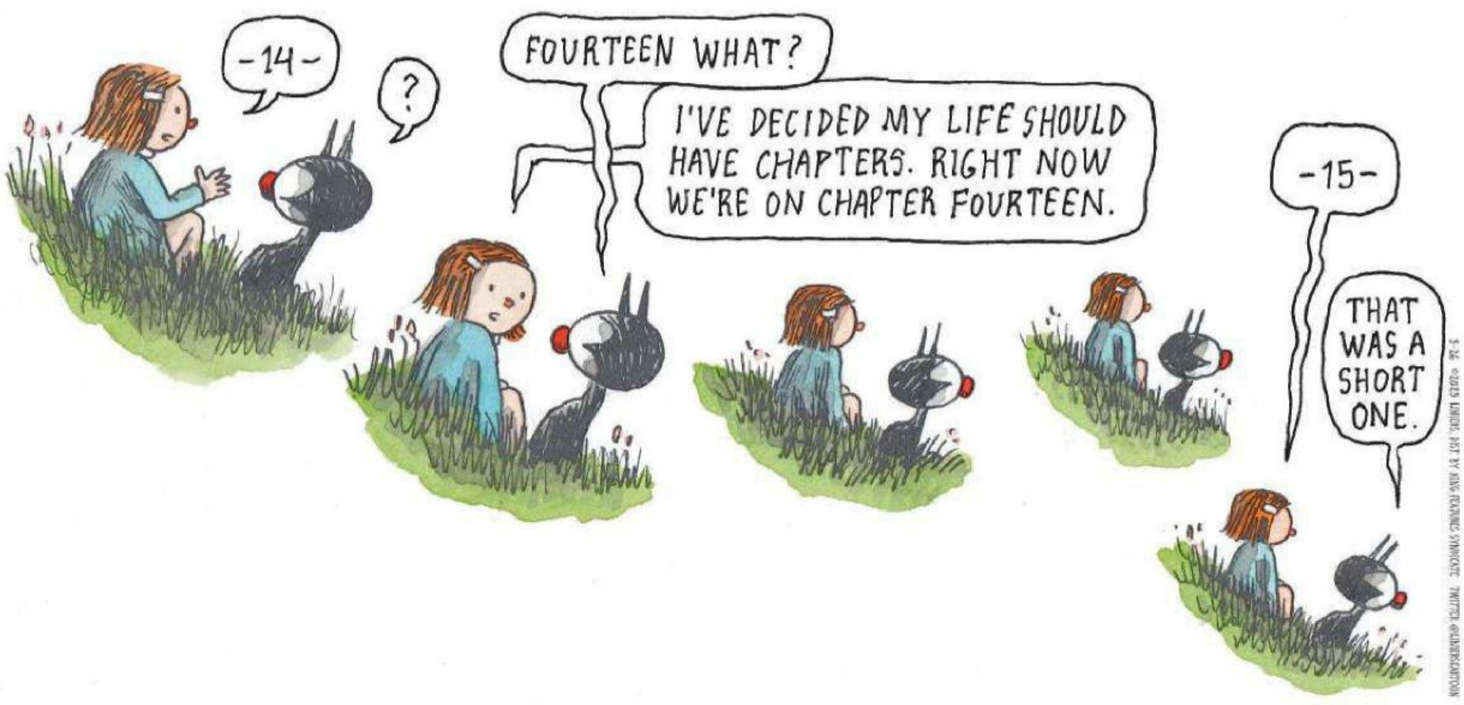
ZITS By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman


FLICKER!
FLICKER!
UH-OH...
THE POWER IS GOING OUT.
zitscomics.com
3·26
FOLLOW ME, JEREMY.
I THINK THERE ARE SOME BATTERIES AROUND HERE.
IS THAT ONE?
BINGO!
SCOTT AND BORGMAN
AND THAT, MY BOY, IS WHY YOU SHOULD ALWAYS KEEP A--
CLICK!
©2023 ZITS Partnership. Dist. by King Features
--FLASHLIGHT HANDY.
SOLID ADVICE AS USUAL, DAD.

BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott


WE GOT THE LAUNDRY ALL CLEANED AND FOLDED.
GoComics.com/babyblues
THE KITCHEN IS SPOTLESS, THE KIDS ARE ASLEEP...
©2023, BABY BLUES BROS LLC DIST. BY ANDREWS McMEEL SYNDICATION
...AND THE WHOLE HOUSE SEEMS TO BE UNDER CONTROL!
IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
PARENTING RULE #619-B...
3-26
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
..."IF EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL, YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION."

MACANUDO By Liniers


-14-
?
FOURTEEN WHAT?
I'VE DECIDED MY LIFE SHOULD HAVE CHAPTERS. RIGHT NOW WE'RE ON CHAPTER FOURTEEN.
-15-
THAT WAS A SHORT ONE.
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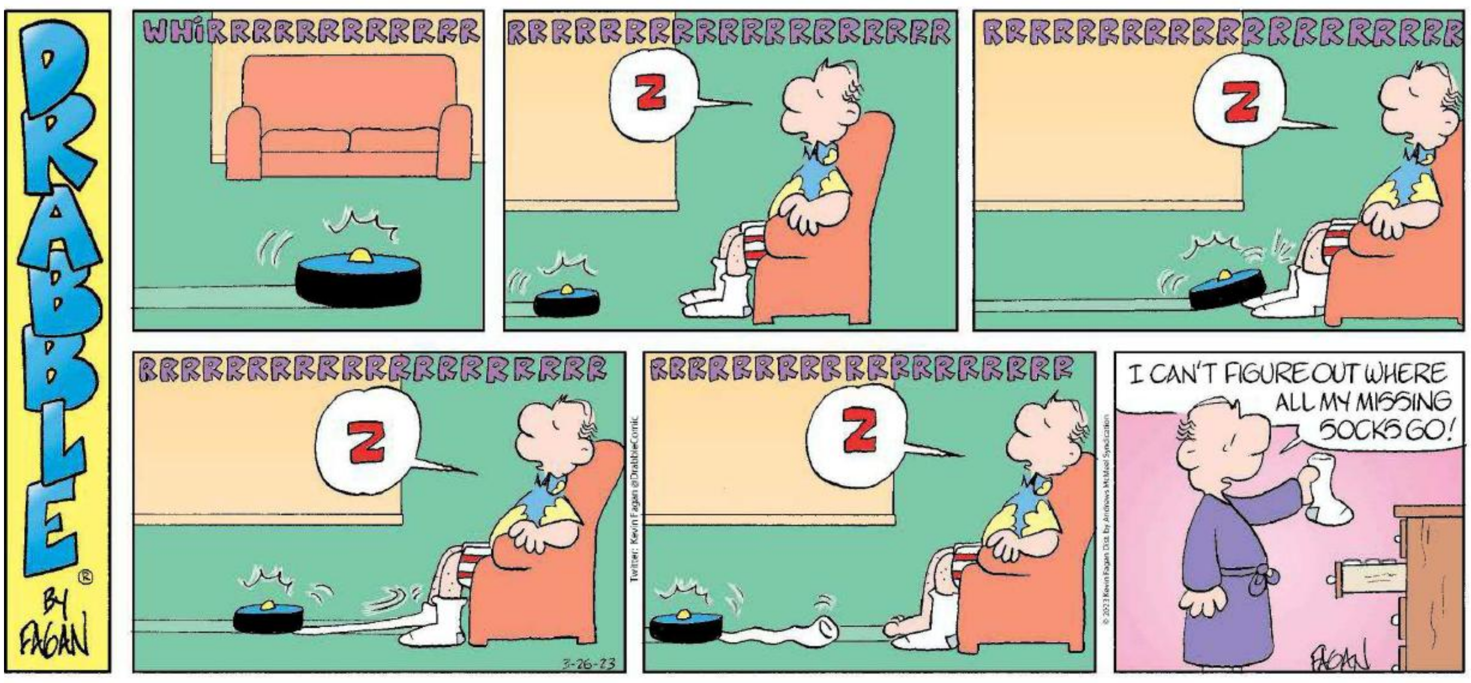
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Twitter: Kevin Fagan @DrabbleComic
3-26-23
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
Z
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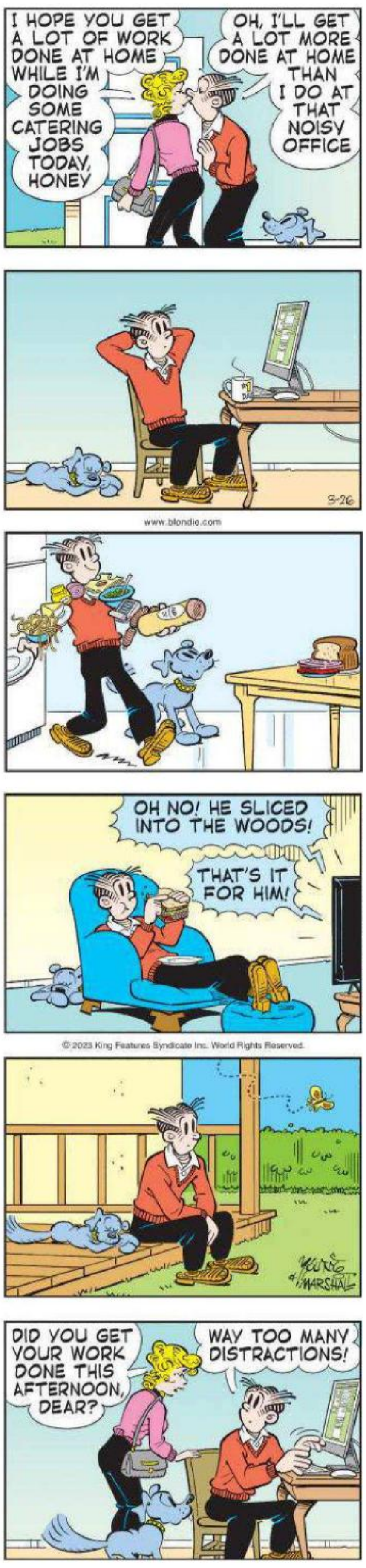
I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHERE ALL MY MISSING SOCKS GO!
FAGAN

BLONDIE

By Dean Young & John Marshall


I HOPE YOU GET A LOT OF WORK DONE AT HOME WHILE I'M DOING SOME CATERING JOBS TODAY, HONEY
OH, I'LL GET A LOT MORE DONE AT HOME THAN I DO AT THAT NOISY OFFICE
3-26
www.blondie.com
OH NO! HE SLICED INTO THE WOODS!
THAT'S IT FOR HIM!
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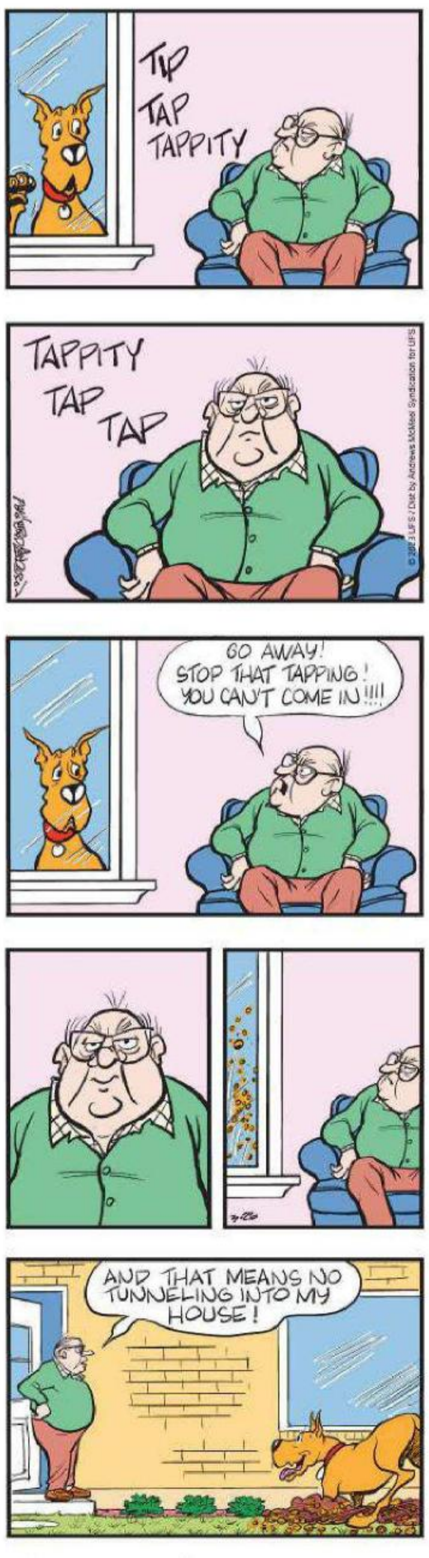
YOUNG & MARSHALL
DID YOU GET YOUR WORK DONE THIS AFTERNOON, DEAR?
WAY TOO MANY DISTRACTIONS!

MARMADUKE

By Brad & Paul Anderson


TIP
TAP
TAPPITY
TAPPITY
TAP
TAP
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GO AWAY! STOP THAT TAPPING! YOU CAN'T COME IN!!!!
3-26
AND THAT MEANS NO TUNNELING INTO MY HOUSE!

DOG GONE FUNNY SAN DIEGO, CA

NAMITA DANDEKAR LOVES WALKING HER LABRADOR, **TOASTER**. NAMITA IS THIN, AND WHEN SHE WALKS TOASTER, TOASTER WALKS **NORMALLY**. NAMITA'S HUSBAND IS ON THE HEAVY SIDE, AND TOASTER MAKES HIM **RUN**. TOASTER IS THE PERFECT **PERSONAL TRAINER!**

HOROSCOPE

HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19): You often ask yourself, "What's the purpose of what I'm doing now?" Though the question may not have a definite answer, it opens up more options than would spring from the automatic enactment of daily life.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You are enough in every way. You are loved enough; you are good enough; you are smart enough. The surer you are of this, the less anxiety you will experience.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): A rush of joy is noticeable, but joy, like water, doesn't always travel in rushes. It will be lucky to sensitize yourself to the subtler ways joy shows up.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Experiencing one's individuality is a developmental milestone. Today's developmental themes have to do with experiencing your interconnection to the whole of life.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You support and challenge the people you love. It wouldn't be very loving to do just one or the other.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): While it would be wonderful to know that what you're doing is the best possible action and the one that will promote happiness for the greatest number of people, there's no way to be sure.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): It will be very lucky for you to deviate from the plan today. Note that you can only deviate from the plan if you have a plan to begin with.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): The most important commodity to exchange before you get working is respect. The second most important is good communication.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The magic of being a passenger and the annoyance of it both come from the same circumstance: people trapped together in transit. As you look around at your fellow travelers, you recognize the potential of the moment. Break the ice.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll never know what happens as a direct or indirect effect of today's generous-hearted gesture. It may take years to fully unfold.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The fewer distractions around you, the more fascinations can reveal themselves to your curious mind.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): There are helpers around, but you won't know about them until you put the word out.

Today's birthday (March 26): Welcome to your year of brilliant ideas! Some of them solve small problems, others put something in the world that wasn't there before. More highlights: a happy homecoming with big news, a strange way of getting to a goal and the purchase of property. Aquarius and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers: 10, 3, 33, 28 and 17.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

"Split a Ride"

EDITED BY PATTI VAROL AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

BY DYLAN SCHIFF & MATTHEW STOCK

ACROSS

1 "Nonsense!"
5 Illinois-Indiana border river
11 With 56-Down, be connected
15 Pops
18 Calculus calculation
19 Place to purchase oils
21 Mole, for one
22 Rage
23 Snarky response to criticism
25 "Drat!"
27 Candies on sticks, informally
28 Like music from "The Twilight Zone"
30 Prom queen toppers
31 "How curious"
32 Snack source
35 "Was that us?"
38 Tote —
39 "Catch my drift?"
40 Tripod's trio
41 Store with discounted athletic apparel
48 Gel
49 Aesop racer
50 Gym count
51 Standard
52 Filing aids
54 Writer/director Phyllis
56 "Written in the Stars" musical
57 Carpentry tool
61 Put in stitches
64 Oscar night phrase
69 Modify to fit
71 Hudson Riv. tech school
72 The NCAA's Spartans
73 Runs in place
74 Festivals with jousts
80 Nosh
81 First name in Indian politics
82 "Fall back" interval
83 Drop
85 Tricky rink move
87 Thick hair
88 Maker of Two Baroque Pearls nail polish
89 Yemen neighbor
93 Watch chain
96 Cartoon Network show about a boy-genius inventor
100 Many a Meccan
102 Unagi roll protein
103 Dreidel, for one
104 Get emotional, with "up"
105 The whole lot
111 Tuna in poke bowls
112 App follower, often
113 With 121-Down, seat of California's Orange County
114 Spanish expression of shock
118 Fibbed
120 "Just wait till I tell Mom!"
123 Untouched serve
124 Crowd din
125 Member of the "Oregon Trail Generation"
126 Facts and stats, in a debate
127 Poetic partner of Wynken and Blynken
128 Figures shared with CPAs
129 Dependable
130 Polite affirmative

DOWN

1 Sob
2 Cold Stone Creamery mix-in
3 Hawk
4 Night when Linus waits for the Great Pumpkin
5 Treated a surfboard
6 Bottle rocket paths
7 Utility bill meas.
8 Burro
9 Luster
10 — in on
11 Significant addition to a team
12 "That's —-brainer!"
13 Scenic view
14 Value system
15 Books about everyday life?
16 Put in order
17 Most populous
20 Gilpin of "Frasier"
24 Down source
26 Actress Arlene
29 "To recap ... "
32 Improvised jazz part
33 Challenge to clubhouse chemistry
34 Patty —
35 "How obvious!"
36 Garten of "Barefoot Contessa"
37 Video game with a floor mat, for short
38 Frozen dessert brand
42 "Gah!"
43 Abbr. on some college apparel
44 Sat atop
45 — surgeon
46 Tombstone name
47 Georgia capital
53 Raced
55 Clad
56 See 11-Across
58 Kid-lit classic "Caps for —"
59 On the ocean
60 Left in the map room
61 Wraparound dress
62 Idyllic setting
63 Mascara applicator
65 Org. funding clean transportation
66 Actor Sharif
67 Tire meas.
68 Ace of Base genre
70 Invoice stamp
75 Hibachi restaurant potable
76 Blacken
77 Forever and ever
78 Gas or wood
79 Gulf States title
84 Until now
86 Office VIP
87 — toast
88 Thin wind
90 — juice
91 Torah holder
92 TV's "Science Guy"
93 Color from a bottle
94 Venezuelan river
95 Went head-to-head
97 Some promos
98 Ga. capital
99 "Gesundheit" trigger
101 Play-ful sort?
106 Closes in on
107 Día — Muertos
108 Part of a mineralogist's collection
109 Great Plains natives
110 Intimidate
111 Usher's place
114 Give a hand?
115 Distracted boyfriend, for one
116 Food brand with a paw print logo
117 Leslie — Jr. of "Glass Onion"
119 Olympic swimmer Thorpe
121 See 113-Across
122 Umbrella spoke

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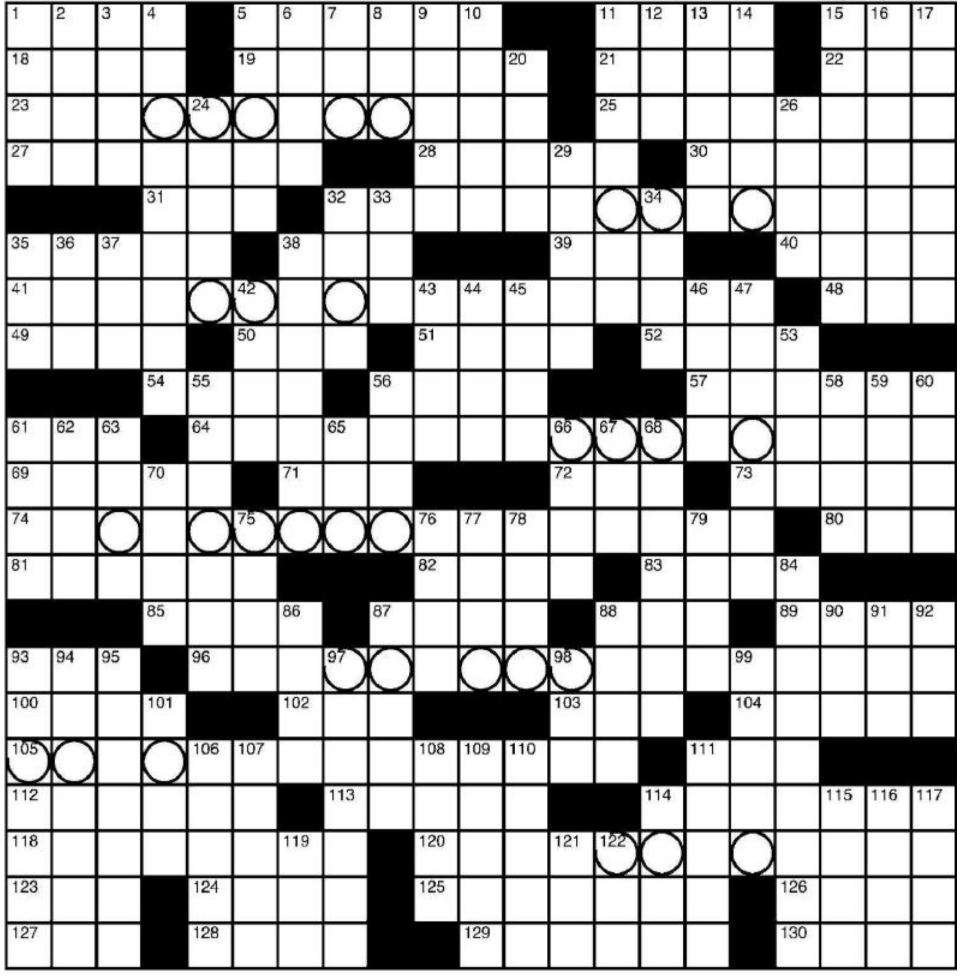
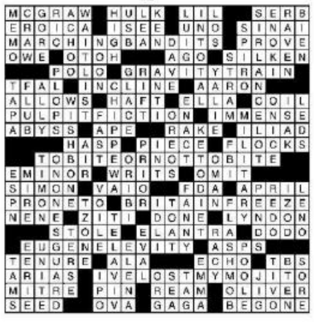


Last week's solution: ""Bring It On""



ASK AMY

Dear Amy: It might be my profession that makes me a little salty, but I'm hoping that you can reframe or share some thoughts on this irritation.

When the pandemic started, everyone was sent to work from home. All most people could do was complain about how difficult this was.

Being a nurse and manager of a medical unit, I obviously did not get to work from home. Nor did I have any "boring" days like so many complained about.

Now, three years later, many people have settled into working from home and love it.

Now they're complaining about having to go into an office a few times a month.

Speaking on behalf of most of us in healthcare (and any service industry), I really wish people could appreciate their situation.

Making every work setting or situation into a complaint is obnoxious for those of us who do not have these luxurious options.

Your take?

SALTY NURSE

Dear Salty: I want to thank you for your service, and for the invitation to ponder and potentially reframe a category of human inquiry that we should be grateful exists: post-pandemic problems.

Let me start by playing a plaintive tune on the world's smallest violin for anyone who has the temerity to complain to a healthcare or service worker about the burdens of being going into the office a few times a month.

Now for the reframing: We're back! We're back to overlooking our obvious lucky breaks (we're alive, being one) and are already starting to take for granted the simple privilege of being able to visit with, touch, hug and kiss one another.

Your burden is also your blessing: While others are whining about the long line at Starbucks, you are already fully awake and inhabiting your salty humanity.

You have my permission to remind others to put their problems into perspective.

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com.*

POKER

CHAD HOLLOWAY

Poker is funny in that some hands are easy to play, while others can prove more difficult. When a player takes their time, usually over a minute, it's referred to as "hitting the tank" or "tanking." Players have the right to think over decisions, but if they take too long, the other players have a right to call a "clock," meaning the contemplating player then has a predetermined amount of time, usually either a minute or 30 seconds, to decide. If they fail to do so, their hand is declared dead.

Tanking and calling the clock are meant to keep the game moving, but some players like to use the rules to their advantage. However, abusing the rules can prove harmful to both the game and your reputation.

This idea played out in an actual hand from Day 2 of the European Poker Tour Main Event, a tournament that attracted 1,606 entries and awarded a prize pool of nearly $1 million. On Day 2 of the tournament, it was Level 15 (2,000/4,000/4,000) when well-known poker player Johan "Yoh Viral" Guilbert raised to 8,000 from middle position and Daniyar Aubakirov three-bet to 17,000 from the hijack, which is the spot two to the right of the dealer button.

Guilbert's hand
A♣ 10♥

Aubakirov's hand
A♠ K♣

Flop
7♥ 10♠ 7♦

Turn
2♣

River
4♠

Action folded back to Guilbert and he hit the tank for several minutes before a player called the clock. Guilbert then called before checking on a flop of 7♥ 10♠ 7♦. Aubakirov continued for 9,000 and once again Guilbert took his time. He finally check-raised to 23,000 and Aubakirov acted much more quickly in making the call.

The dealer then burned-and-turned the 2♣ and Guilbert thought so long that another clock was called on him. He took nearly the full minute before checking and Aubakirov responded by betting 20,000. Just like that, action was back on Guilbert and he went back into the tank — again!

That led to another clock being called, the third of the hand, and Guilbert again woke up with a check-raise by moving all-in for 66,000. Aubakirov, who had the bigger stack, opted to call with his A♠ K♣, which was behind the A♣ 10♥ of Guilbert, who had two pair.

The 4♠ on the river changed nothing and Guilbert doubled up. However, while he had good fortune on that hand, his antics at the table didn't sit well with many.

So, the next time you're playing poker, act accordingly. You're entitled to take your time, just don't use and abuse it too often.

Holloway is a 2013 World Series of Poker bracelet winner.

SUDOKU

Level: Impossible

7				9				3
	9					2	4	
		5	8				7	
		9	1		5			
4				7				8
			2		3	7		
	1				9	4		
	3	7					6	
2				3				7

4	5	1	6	2	8	9	3	7
3	7	2	9	4	5	1	6	8
8	6	9	3	7	1	5	2	4
5	1	3	2	6	7	8	4	9
2	4	6	5	8	9	7	1	3
9	8	7	4	1	3	6	5	2
1	9	4	7	5	2	3	8	6
6	3	5	8	9	4	2	7	1
7	2	8	1	3	6	4	9	5

Solution to last week's puzzle

More Online

For other brain-teasing challenges, go to *latimes.com/games.*

©Amuse Labs

Level: Tough

5		7					8	9
9								6
1	8		2					
	7			3				
8	4			5			2	7
				1			4	
					5		1	4
7								3
4	3					5		

Level: Tough

		5		1	
		1			3
2		3			
1			4		
	4		2		

4	3	6	5	7	2	8	1	9
2	9	1	6	4	8	3	7	5
8	5	7	9	3	1	4	6	2
7	6	4	2	5	3	1	9	8
5	8	3	7	1	9	2	4	6
9	1	2	8	6	4	7	5	3
3	7	8	1	9	6	5	2	4
1	2	9	4	8	5	6	3	7
6	4	5	3	2	7	9	8	1

3	6	4	1	2	5
5	2	1	3	4	6
1	3	6	2	5	4
4	5	2	6	3	1
6	4	3	5	1	2
2	1	5	4	6	3

3/26/23

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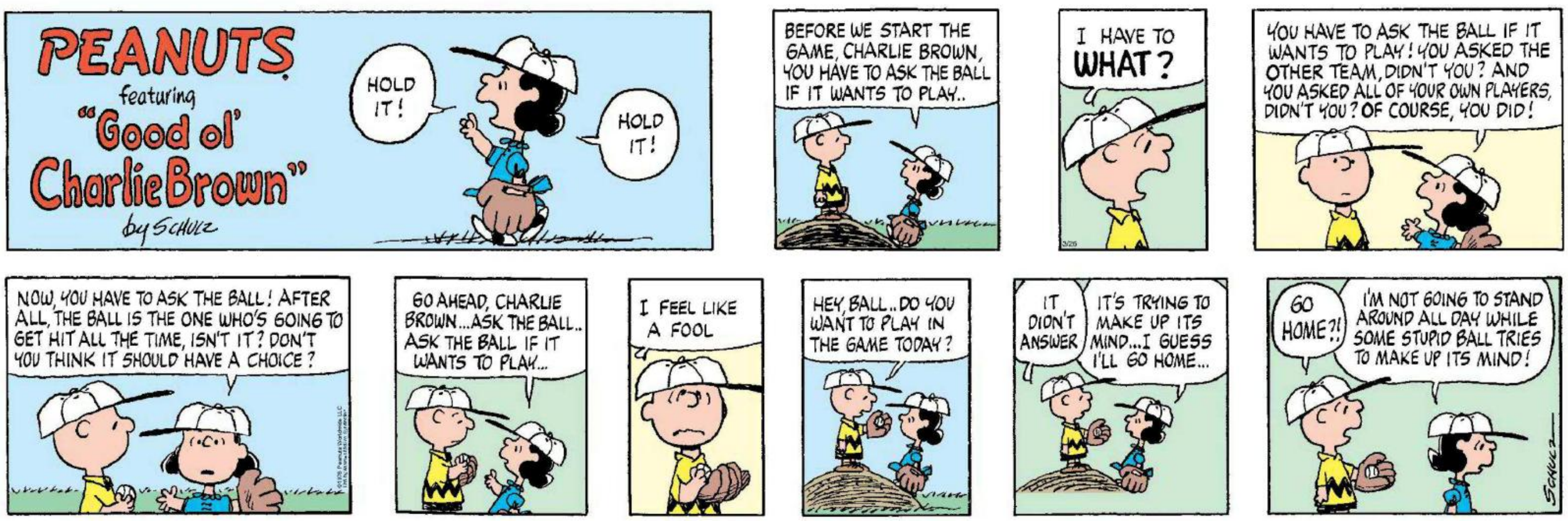
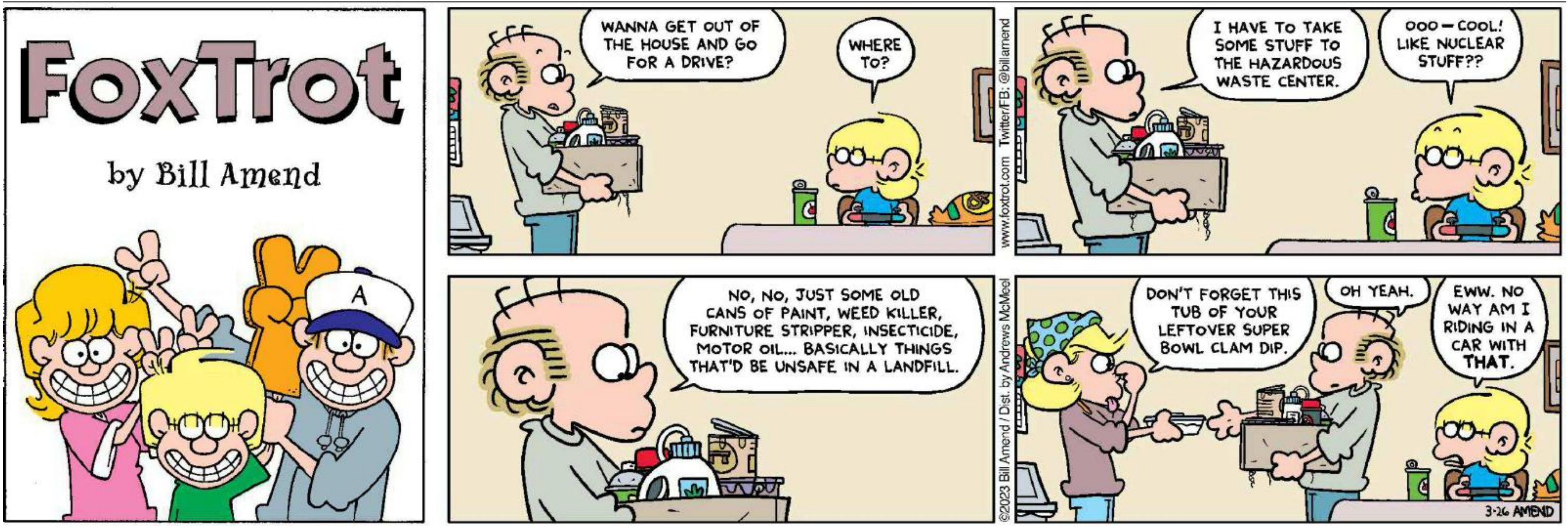
Solutions to Saturday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.


PEANUTS
featuring "Good ol' Charlie Brown"
by SCHULZ
HOLD IT!
HOLD IT!
BEFORE WE START THE GAME, CHARLIE BROWN, YOU HAVE TO ASK THE BALL IF IT WANTS TO PLAY..
I HAVE TO WHAT?
YOU HAVE TO ASK THE BALL IF IT WANTS TO PLAY! YOU ASKED THE OTHER TEAM, DIDN'T YOU? AND YOU ASKED ALL OF YOUR OWN PLAYERS, DIDN'T YOU? OF COURSE, YOU DID!
NOW, YOU HAVE TO ASK THE BALL! AFTER ALL, THE BALL IS THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO GET HIT ALL THE TIME, ISN'T IT? DON'T YOU THINK IT SHOULD HAVE A CHOICE?
GO AHEAD, CHARLIE BROWN...ASK THE BALL.. ASK THE BALL IF IT WANTS TO PLAY...
I FEEL LIKE A FOOL
HEY, BALL..DO YOU WANT TO PLAY IN THE GAME TODAY?
IT DIDN'T ANSWER
IT'S TRYING TO MAKE UP ITS MIND...I GUESS I'LL GO HOME...
GO HOME?!
I'M NOT GOING TO STAND AROUND ALL DAY WHILE SOME STUPID BALL TRIES TO MAKE UP ITS MIND!
SCHULZ


FoxTrot
by Bill Amend
WANNA GET OUT OF THE HOUSE AND GO FOR A DRIVE?
WHERE TO?
I HAVE TO TAKE SOME STUFF TO THE HAZARDOUS WASTE CENTER.
OOO — COOL! LIKE NUCLEAR STUFF??
NO, NO, JUST SOME OLD CANS OF PAINT, WEED KILLER, FURNITURE STRIPPER, INSECTICIDE, MOTOR OIL... BASICALLY THINGS THAT'D BE UNSAFE IN A LANDFILL.
DON'T FORGET THIS TUB OF YOUR LEFTOVER SUPER BOWL CLAM DIP.
OH YEAH.
EWW. NO WAY AM I RIDING IN A CAR WITH THAT.
www.foxtrot.com Twitter/FB: @billamend
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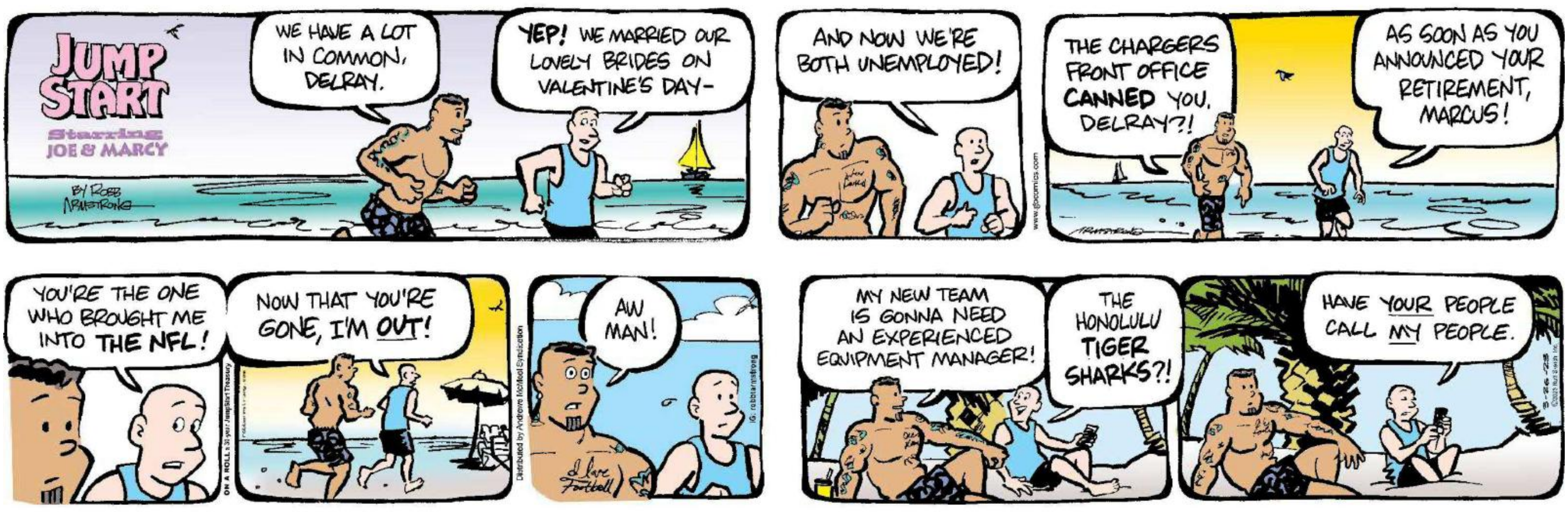
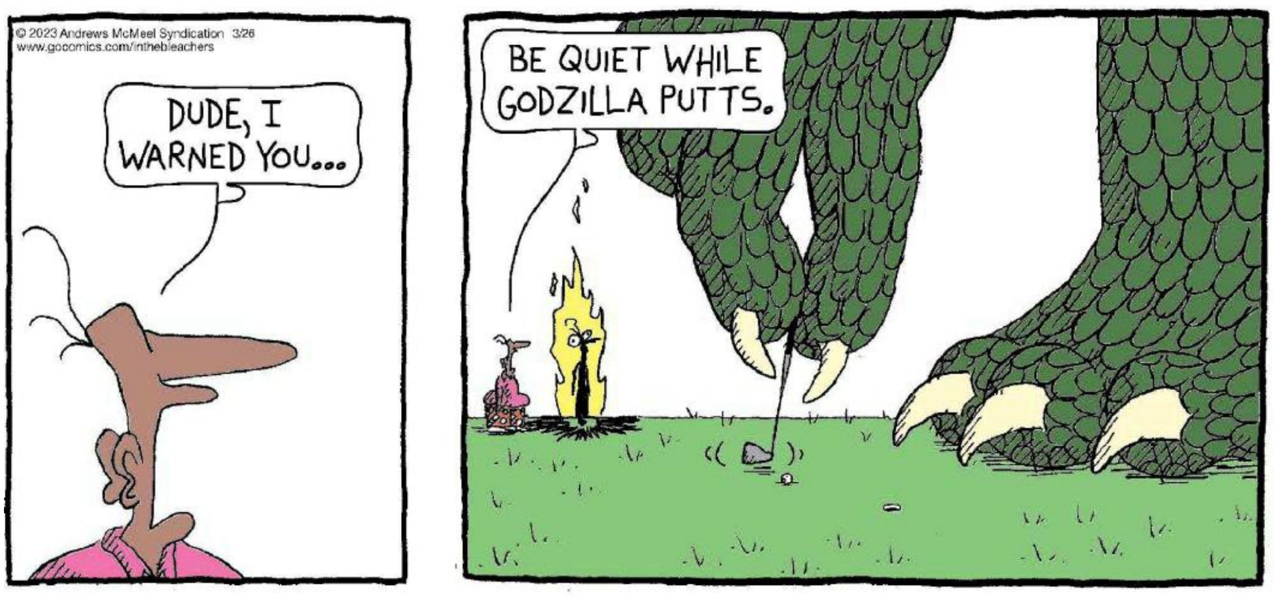
3-26 AMEND


JUMP START
Starring JOE & MARCY
BY ROBB ARMSTRONG
WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON, DELRAY.
YEP! WE MARRIED OUR LOVELY BRIDES ON VALENTINE'S DAY-
AND NOW WE'RE BOTH UNEMPLOYED!
THE CHARGERS FRONT OFFICE CANNED YOU, DELRAY?!
AS SOON AS YOU ANNOUNCED YOUR RETIREMENT, MARCUS!
www.gocomics.com
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT ME INTO THE NFL!
NOW THAT YOU'RE GONE, I'M OUT!
AW MAN!
I love Football
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
IG: robbarmstrong
MY NEW TEAM IS GONNA NEED AN EXPERIENCED EQUIPMENT MANAGER!
THE HONOLULU TIGER SHARKS?!
HAVE YOUR PEOPLE CALL MY PEOPLE.
3-26-23

IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore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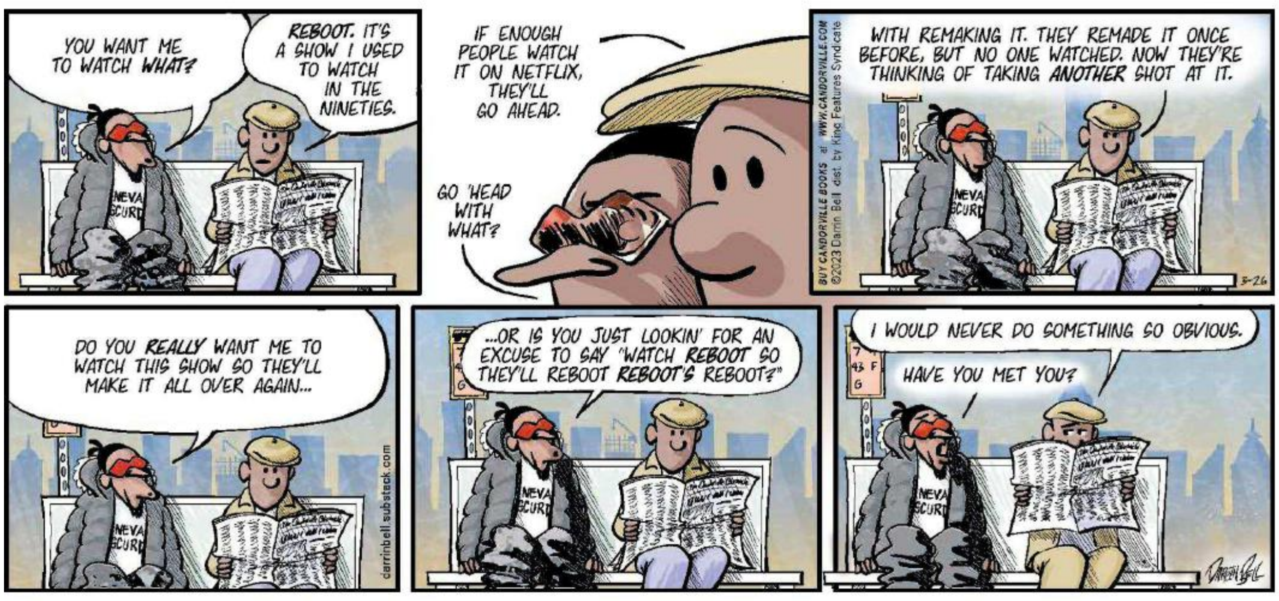
www.gocomics.com/inthebleachers
DUDE, I WARNED YOU...
BE QUIET WHILE GODZILLA PUTTS.

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell


YOU WANT ME TO WATCH WHAT?
REBOOT. IT'S A SHOW I USED TO WATCH IN THE NINETIES.
IF ENOUGH PEOPLE WATCH IT ON NETFLIX, THEY'LL GO AHEAD.
GO 'HEAD WITH WHAT?
WITH REMAKING IT. THEY REMADE IT ONCE BEFORE, BUT NO ONE WATCHED. NOW THEY'RE THINKING OF TAKING ANOTHER SHOT AT IT.
BUY CANDORVILLE BOOKS at WWW.CANDORVILLE.COM
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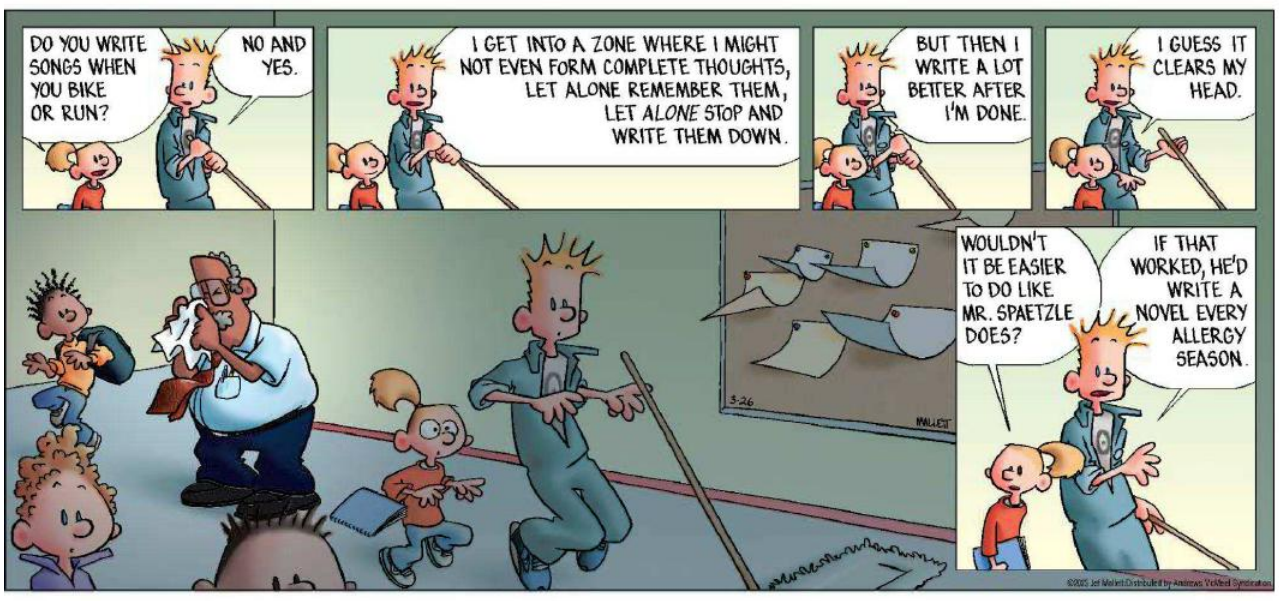
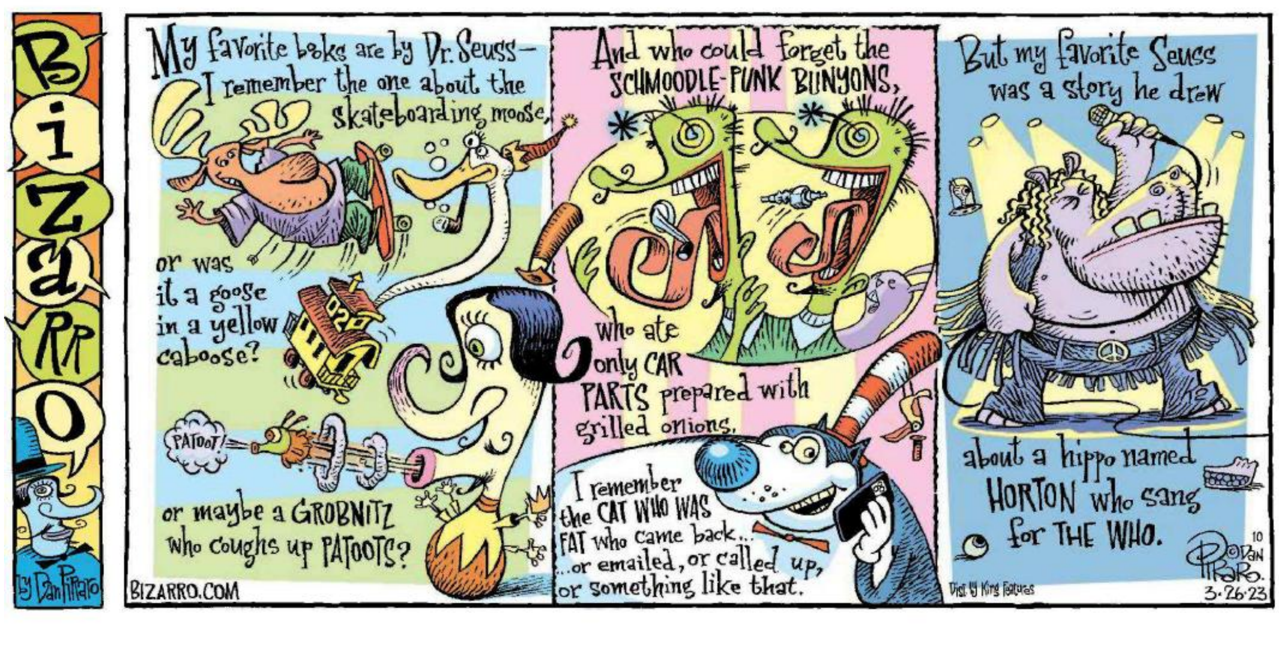
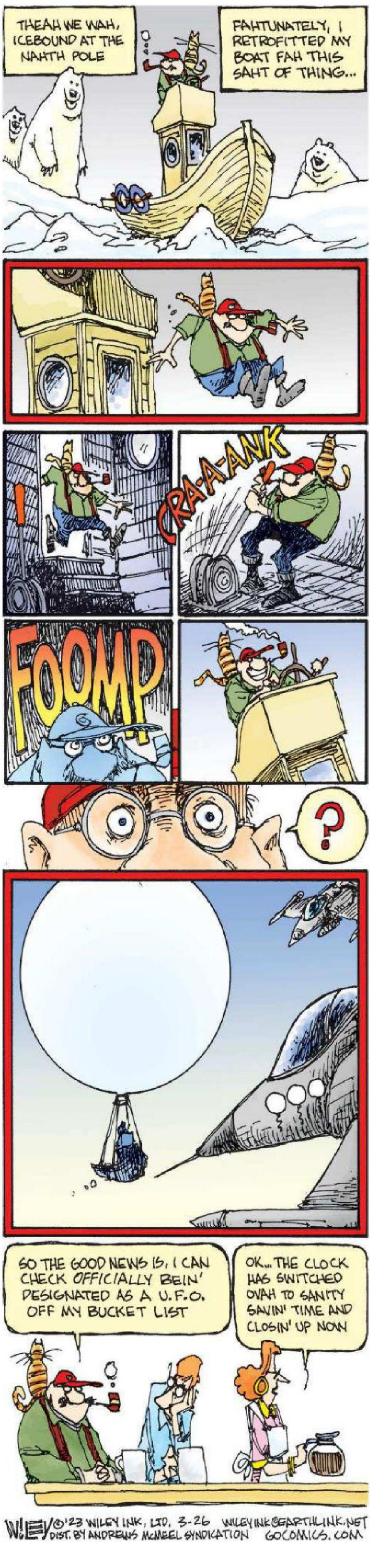
3-26
DO YOU REALLY WANT ME TO WATCH THIS SHOW SO THEY'LL MAKE IT ALL OVER AGAIN...
darrinbell.substack.com
...OR IS YOU JUST LOOKIN' FOR AN EXCUSE TO SAY "WATCH REBOOT SO THEY'LL REBOOT REBOOT'S REBOOT?"
I WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING SO OBVIOUS.
HAVE YOU MET YOU?
NEVA SCURD

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett


DO YOU WRITE SONGS WHEN YOU BIKE OR RUN?
NO AND YES.
I GET INTO A ZONE WHERE I MIGHT NOT EVEN FORM COMPLETE THOUGHTS, LET ALONE REMEMBER THEM, LET ALONE STOP AND WRITE THEM DOWN.
BUT THEN I WRITE A LOT BETTER AFTER I'M DONE.
I GUESS IT CLEARS MY HEAD.
WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO DO LIKE MR. SPAETZLE DOES?
IF THAT WORKED, HE'D WRITE A NOVEL EVERY ALLERGY SEASON.
3-26
MALLETT


BiZaRRO
by Dan Piraro
My favorite books are by Dr. Seuss—I remember the one about the skateboarding moose,
or was it a goose in a yellow caboose?
PATOOT!
or maybe a GROBNITZ who coughs up PATOOTS?
And who could forget the SCHMOODLE-PUNK BUNYONS,
who ate only CAR PARTS prepared with grilled onions.
I remember the CAT WHO WAS FAT who came back... ...or emailed, or called up, or something like that.
But my favorite Seuss was a story he drew
about a hippo named HORTON who sang for THE WHO.
BIZARRO.COM
Dist. by King Features
©Dan Piraro. 3-26-23

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley


THEAH WE WAH, ICEBOUND AT THE NAHTH POLE
FAHTUNATELY, I RETROFITTED MY BOAT FAH THIS SAHT OF THING...
CRA-A-ANK
FOOMP
?
SO THE GOOD NEWS IS, I CAN CHECK OFFICIALLY BEIN' DESIGNATED AS A U.F.O. OFF MY BUCKET LIST
OK... THE CLOCK HAS SWITCHED OVAH TO SANITY SAVIN' TIME AND CLOSIN' UP NOW
WILEY ©'23 WILEY INK, LTD. 3-26 WILEYINK@EARTHLINK.NET
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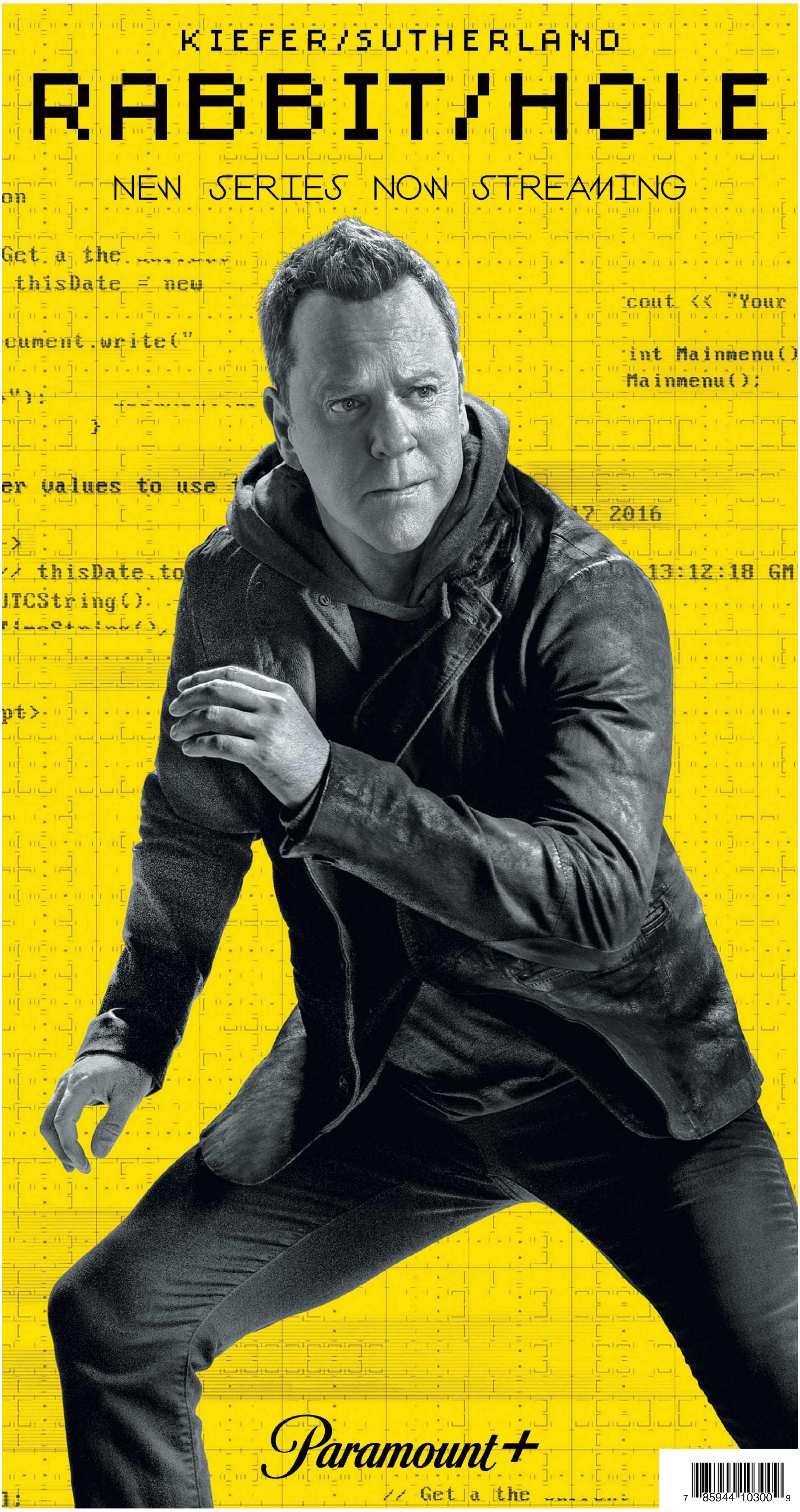
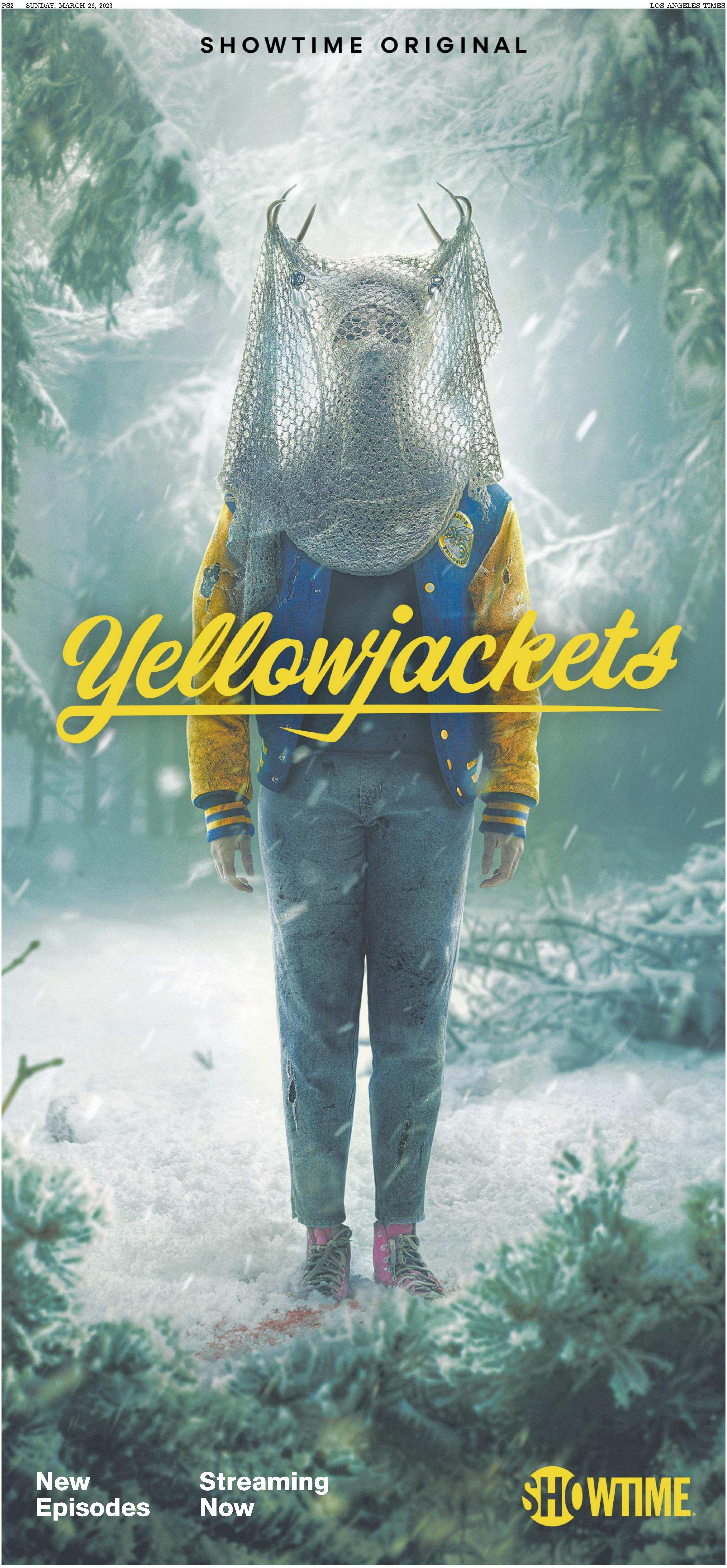

KIEFER/SUTHERLAND
RABBIT/HOLE
NEW SERIES NOW STREAMING
Paramount+
on
Get a the
thisDate = new
ocument.write("
"):
}
er values to use
->
// thisDate.to
UTCString()
pt>
cout << "Your
int Mainmenu()
Mainmenu();
17 2016
13:12:18 GM
// Get a the

7 85944 10300 9



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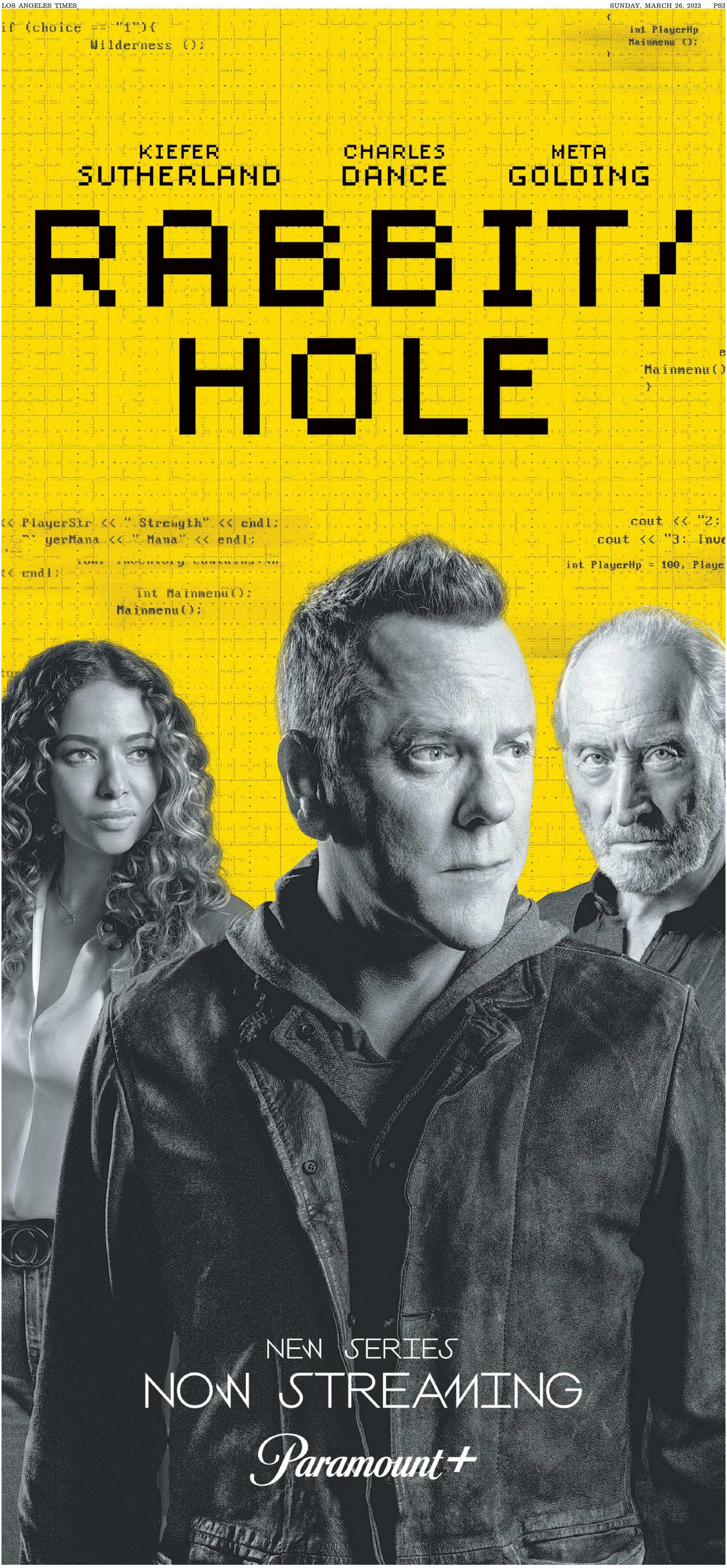
Yellowjackets
New Episodes
Streaming Now
SHOWTIME


if (choice == "1"){
Wilderness ();
int PlayerHp
Mainmenu ();
KIEFER SUTHERLAND
CHARLES DANCE
META GOLDING
RABBIT HOLE
Mainmenu()
<< PlayerStr << " Strength" << endl;
yerMana << " Mana" << endl;
Your inventory contains:
<< endl;
int Mainmenu();
Mainmenu();
cout << "2:
cout << "3: Inve
int PlayerHp = 100, Playe
NEW SERIES
NOW STREAMING
Paramount+

SHOWTIME ORIGINAL
Yellowjackets
New Episodes
Streaming Now
SHOWTIME®

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PLUS
Kiefer
Sutherland,
p. 4

“I’m a
SURVIVOR”

ROB Lowe

On his enduring “hunk” status, working with his son and being 33 years sober

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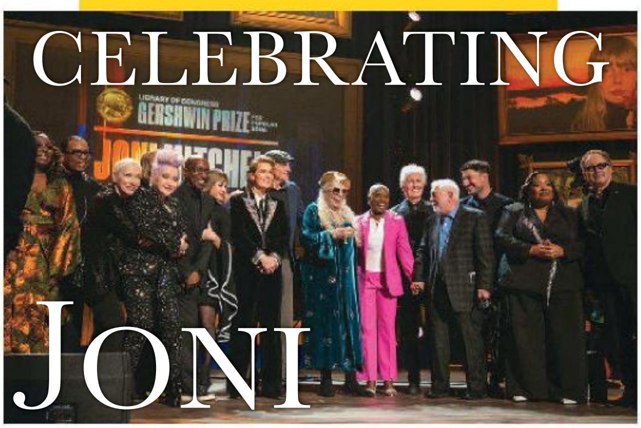
WALTER SCOTT'S

Personality Parade

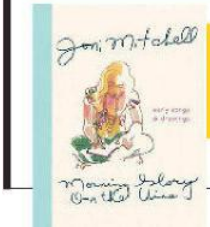
CELEBRATING JONI


LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GERSHWIN PRIZE FOR POPULAR SONG
JONI MITCHELL

It was a big night on March 1, when Joni Mitchell received an all-star tribute in Washington, D.C. The 10-time Grammy Award winner, 79, received the nation's highest award —The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song—for influence, impact and achievement in popular music. She joined the ranks of previous recipients Stevie Wonder, Paul McCartney, Carole King, Willie Nelson, Smokey Robinson, Garth Brooks and Lionel Richie.

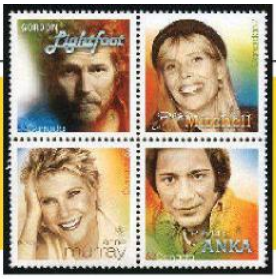
Tune in to **PBS on March 31** for the broadcast of the tribute and to see Mitchell sing "Summertime" and be serenaded by James Taylor, Annie Lennox, Cyndi Lauper and others.

Here are some essential facts about the Canadian-born singer-songwriter of songs such as "Big Yellow Taxi" and "Help Me." Go to *Parade.com/joni-mitchell* for more.



Mitchell's artwork can be seen on her album covers and in her book, *Morning Glory on the Vine*. **amazon.com, $23**

Mitchell's picture appeared on a 52-cent Canadian **commemorative postage stamps** honoring Canadian Recording Artists, issued June 29, 2007.



Part of the Laurel Canyon crowd in Southern California, Mitchell was a frequent poker player at a weekly game run by Eagles guitarist Glenn Frey in the 1970s.

Mitchell's first album, *Song to a Seagull*, produced by **David Crosby** (Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young), was dedicated to her 7th-grade English teacher, who Mitchell has said, "taught me to love words."

"Little Green" is a song written about the baby daughter that Mitchell gave up for adoption in 1965. Mitchell and her daughter met in 1997.

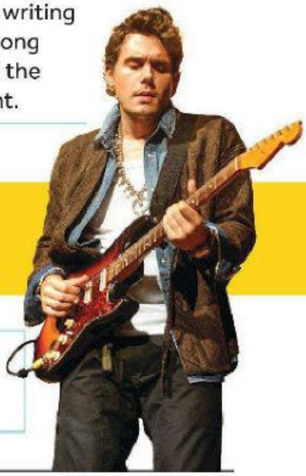
Mitchell, who was hospitalized with polio as a child, suffered a brain aneurysm rupture in 2015, at age 72. She had to learn how to walk again.

Mitchell was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997 and received the Order of Canada in 2004.

Graham Nash, David Crosby, Leonard Cohen, and James Taylor are among the fellow musicians with whom she collaborated and became romantically involved.

Despite writing the classic song "Woodstock," Mitchell wasn't able to attend the festival because of a conflicting engagement.

She plays guitar, piano, oboe and autoharp.



John Mayer's "Queen of California" is a reference to Mitchell's *Blue*, which is considered by many to be her greatest album.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SCOTT HENRICHSEN/PBS; USPS; DAVID WARNER ELLIS/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES; SCOTT HENRICHSEN/PBS; KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES

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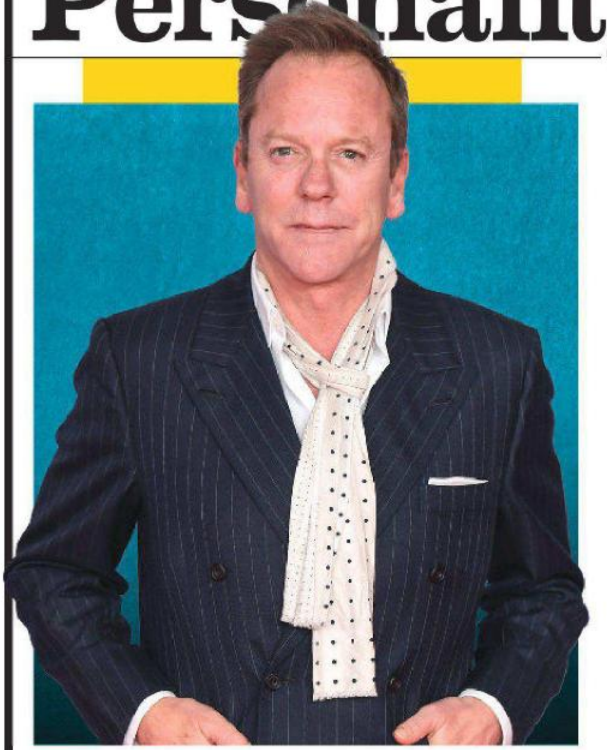
WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

KIEFER SUTHERLAND

The *24* star, 56, goes down the ***Rabbit Hole*** (March 26 on Paramount+) in the new conspiracy thriller where nothing is what it seems to be. John Weir (Sutherland), a master of deception in the world of corporate espionage, is framed for murder by a shadowy cabal with the power to influence and control populations in this story that keeps the players on their toes with its constant twists and turns.



***24* and *Rabbit Hole* are completely different shows, but do you think there's a common thread between Jack Bauer and John Weir in that they both want to save the world?** They have it in common but for different reasons and on very different levels. Jack Bauer is a character that literally wanted to serve. He didn't want to save the world. It was a situation that was put into his lap on his watch and he felt a great sense of duty and responsibility to go forward and do what he could to prevent these very big catastrophic situations from happening. John Weir wants to save himself, and only over time does he even begin to understand that by saving himself, there's an opportunity to do a greater good, and he tries to do both. I think John Weir is much more of a rascal than Jack Bauer, which was a lot of fun to play, so he probably doesn't have Jack Bauer's nobility, but he's a lot funnier.

What made you say yes to John Weir and *Rabbit Hole*? It was a combination of things. John [Requa] and Glenn [Ficarra] are two of my favorite writers and their work is extraordinary. I was also really intrigued with the idea of working with two people as a directing unit. I've never had that experience. It's really beautiful.

And this is a thriller that harkens back to amazing films I absolutely admired and loved, like *Three Days of the Condor* and *Marathon Man*. What I found fascinating about this was that even in the context of the storytelling between the four people that are the nucleus of this cast, there are moments when no one can trust anybody. If we don't understand how to harness technology so that that it cannot be manipulated and used in this way, then we're going to create a world where literally the person you're sitting across from...you're not going to really be able to trust anything that they're saying or doing.

This is beautifully juxtaposed against the fact that John Weir is falling in love with a woman who he knows he should not be falling in love with, and he can't help himself, which is so beautifully human. It's those contradictions in the storytelling, and in the context of the character, that I think they do so well, and I wanted to try it.

***Rabbit Hole* exists in this world where deception and manipulation are the everyday reality. Are there any conspiracy theories in real life that you don't necessarily subscribe to but find fascinating?** I've always been amazed with the fact that if the mafia killed Jimmy Hoffa, we'd know by now because those guys can't keep a secret for anything. Prison will show you that. That one I've always found amusing; that everybody thinks it was the mob, but there's no way the five people that had to keep that a secret did.

And, obviously, the Kennedy assassination and this idea that every person who becomes president finds out the truth. That, to me, is as humorous as anything I've seen in a long time. I've seen our presidents and there's no way they could keep that a secret either.

FROM LEFT: KARWAI TANG/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; MICHAEL GIBSON/PBS

I think the biggest conspiracy, which is not even a conspiracy, that I find potentially alarming is the algorithms that are created by Netflix, Paramount+ and all of the streaming services that, based on what you watch, start to target what they think you will watch. This idea that artificial intelligence is somehow going to replace the vast variety of interests that I might have, I think that's a potentially very dangerous thing when other humans start to look at the data from AI and think they have an insight into another human being more than they do.

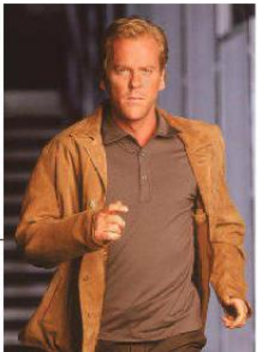
You're an action icon, but it's a dozen or so years since *24* ended. Did you rely more on a stuntman for *Rabbit Hole*? No. I wish I did. They were all like, "Yeah, I heard you do your own stuff. Good, do it," and I was like, "OK." The big difference, which is actually really funny and it's more technical than anything, is that Jack Bauer usually threw the first punch and he usually won the fight. This is very different. I don't win any fights. I lose them all and I don't throw the first punch. The reason why that matters is because normally the person who's getting hit first doesn't see it coming. So, you have to anticipate being hit so you can't embarrassingly flinch. I had to teach myself not to flinch even though I knew I was going to get hit in the back of the head with a skateboard. There's nothing that really trains you how to not flinch, so some of the takes took a little longer than I had hoped.

Has there been any talk about getting Jack Bauer out of China? A lot of talk for 10 years. [Executive producer] Howard Gordon and I are still very good friends, so are [creator] Joel Surnow and I. We talk regularly. It always sounds so much easier over a beer, right? "We should bring it back." Then someone starts to write one episode and they realize they've got 23 more to go just to finish the first season, and they're like, "Yeah, maybe we shouldn't do it right now." So, we always talk about it and I make a joke: "If you want me to be able to walk and run at all, you better do it soon."

You're heading out on the "So Full of Love" tour. What do you love about singing live that maybe you don't get as an actor? Well, I wrote the songs. I didn't write *24*, *The Caine Mutiny* or *Rabbit Hole*. That's me playing a character in an effort to tell a story that was created by somebody else. The songs are little stories, too, but they're mine. I wrote them and they're of a personal nature.

I wrote a song about the loss of my mom called "Saskatchewan," and I can play that song and, invariably in the first three rows, there's always someone that you can find that's lost a parent or someone they're very close to. You can tell the song resonates with them and then, all of a sudden, I've made a connection with someone. You connect enough of those dots and, by the end of the night, whether it's 500 people or 2,000 people, you realize we all have a little more in common with each other than when it started. I started playing music because I love playing and I love the people that I was playing with. That whole audience thing was something I didn't count on and had no reason to know about, but that's the thing that's made me keep doing it.

Do you have a sense of humor about the Jack Bauer jokes? Do you have a favorite? There was one [joke] that I saw on a T-shirt that made me laugh. It said: "If Jack Bauer was stuck in a room with Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin and Nina Myers [of *24*'s Counter Terrorist Unit] and he only had two bullets, who would he shoot?" Then on the back it said: "Nina Myers. Twice." I can't say politically I align myself with that, but I thought in the context, the joke was pretty funny.



PICTURELUX/THE HOLLYWOOD ARCHIVE/ALAMY

Your website features a few cooking videos. Who taught you how to cook? Did you have to do that because you were a single dad? Yes, it was completely because I was a single dad, and I didn't want to kill my children. I had seen in the movie *The Accidental Tourist*, where the sister slow-roasted a turkey for 14 hours and they're all scared to get food poisoning. I was like, *I didn't even know you could slow-roast a turkey for 14 hours and potentially kill someone, I better go to cooking school*, and so I did. I guess I hit it at the right age because it was the first thing that I ever did from all those years of schooling where I followed the directions from beginning to the end. I started making food that I really, really enjoyed.

So, I started making these videos because I kept running into people, especially on the road with music and other actor friends of mine, that didn't know how to cook. One woman in particular said the sweetest thing—and she was a really physical actor—she was like, "Yeah, I can beat you three different ways with this broom handle, but I couldn't cook eggs for my kid. Can you show me that?" I was like, "Yeah, OK." I just enjoyed it and made a couple of videos more as a joke, but people seem to enjoy them. P

The Parade Don't Miss List

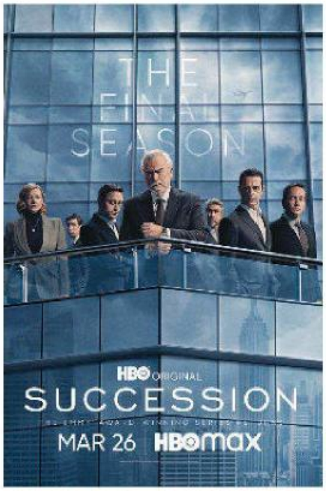
Here's what's on our radar for the week ahead. Go to ***Parade.com/entertainment*** for more.

SUCCESSION

(MARCH 26 ON HBO)

The Roy family returns for a fourth and final season, which kicks off with the pending sale of their media conglomerate Waystar Royco to tech visionary Lukas Matsson (Alexander Skarsgård) moving ever closer. Of course, there's the usual power struggle as they ponder the fact that their political weight will be greatly diminished when the company isn't under their control. Adding to the drama: domineering patriarch Logan Roy (**Brian Cox**) plans to cut his kids out of the merged company's future.

"They are wedded to avarice," Cox, 76, says of Kendall (**Jeremy Strong**), Siobhan (**Sarah Snook**), Roman (**Kieran Culkin**) and Connor (**Alan Ruck**). "He knows that they haven't got the stuff to do it, but they'll try anyway. And that is what the show is all about: entitlement."



MURDER MYSTERY 2

(MARCH 31 ON NETFLIX)

Adam Sandler and **Jennifer Aniston** return as Nick and Audrey Spitz, whose struggling private-eye agency finally gets off the ground with a high-stakes case that takes them to the city of their dreams: Paris. But will they be able to solve the kidnapping of a friend from his wedding?

"Shooting in Paris was everything you can imagine," said Aniston, 54. "It's the most magical, beautiful city, and the people are so lovely. I think Adam walked every single street that exists in Paris. We were fortunate enough to shoot at these stunning landmarks that are the stuff of dreams. Spectacular." And Adam Sandler? "He's my brother from another mother," Aniston said. "We always have an incredible time together. It's a fun ride that we can't wait to share with everyone."

YELLOWJACKETS

(MARCH 26 ON SHOWTIME)

Christina Ricci, Juliette Lewis and **Melanie Lynskey** return in the second season of this then-and-now drama about a soccer team that was involved in a plane crash and the repercussions of their survival experience. New cast members include Elijah Wood and **Lauren Ambrose**.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: HONOR AMONG THIEVES

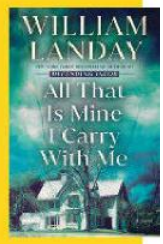
(MARCH 31 IN THEATERS)

This fast-paced heist romp stars **Chris Pine** (*Star Trek*), **Michelle Rodriguez** (*Fast & Furious*) and Regé-Jean Page (*Bridgerton*).

BOOKS WE LOVE

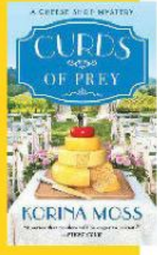
***ALL THAT IS MINE I CARRY WITH ME* by William Landay (Bantam)**

The author of the bestselling *Defending Jacob* is back with a compelling tale of family loss and intrigue. When their mother disappears (and then her remains are found 20 years later), three children must grapple with the possibilities—is their father guilty or innocent of this event that changed all of their lives? **amazon.com, $25**



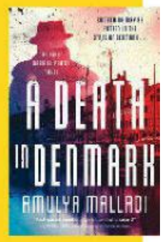
***CURDS OF PREY* by Korina Moss (St. Martin's Paperbacks, March 28)**

The third in this series of cozy mysteries set in the Curds & Whey cheese shop in Sonoma Valley serves up plenty of cheese boards, small-town drama and death. Can our heroine Willa Bauer follow the trail of cheese curds to the killer? **amazon.com, $9**



***A DEATH IN DENMARK* by Amulya Malladi (William Morrow Paperbacks, March 28)**

Fans of Nordic noir will love this debut introducing Gabriel Præst, an ex-Copenhagen cop who can't seem to stay away from jazz clubs and dangerous situations. He gets beat up more than once as he tries to unravel a mystery that delves into Denmark's Nazi-collaborator past and its precarious present. **amazon.com, $19**



FROM TOP: HBO MAX; LORENZO AGIUS/SHOWTIME; SCOTT YAMANO/NETFLIX; AIDAN MONAGHAN/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Parade

Parade's Daily

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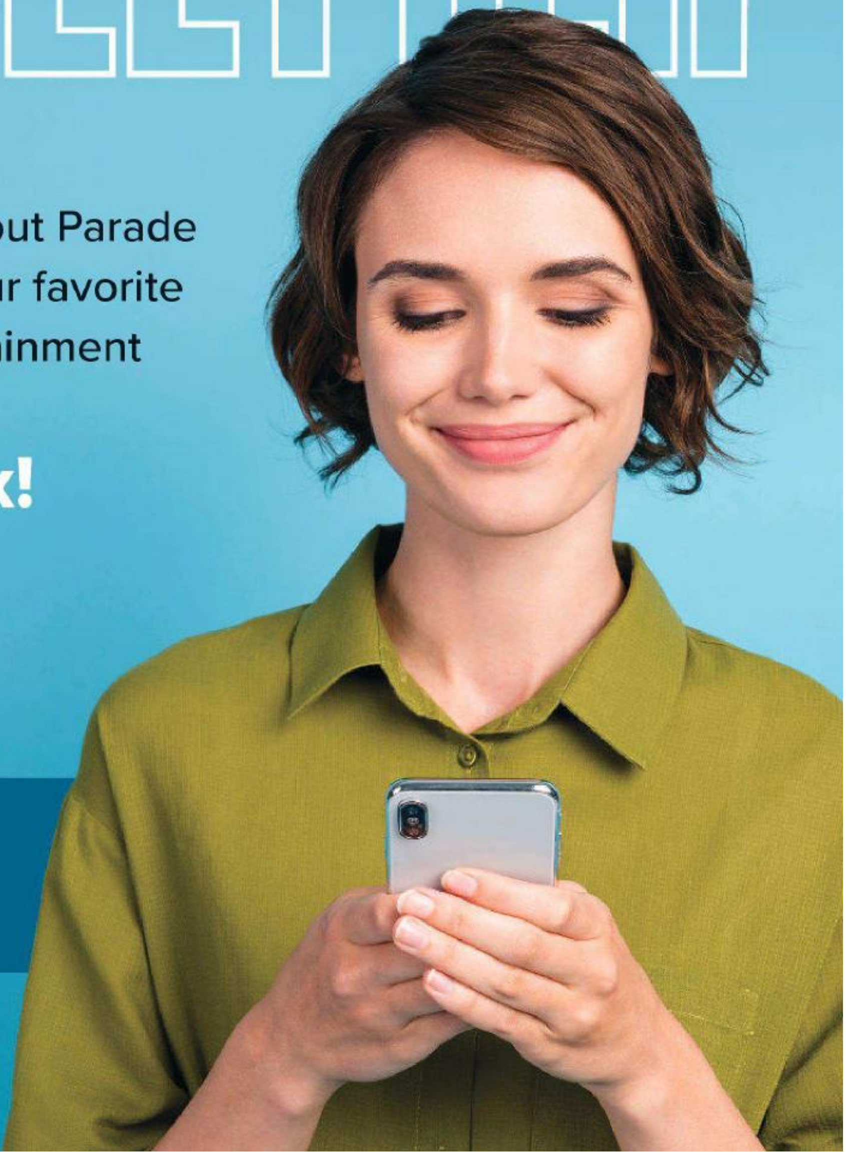
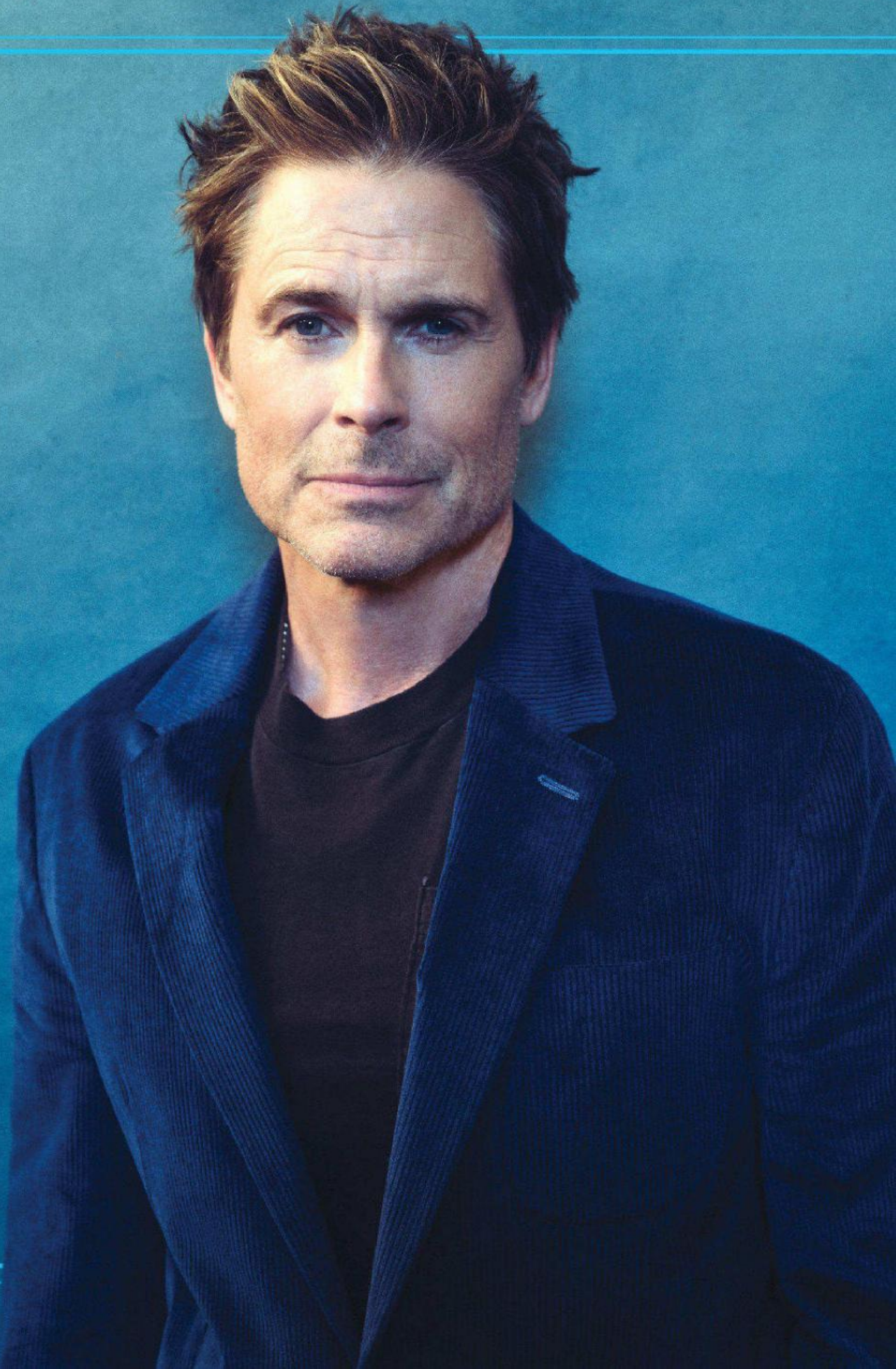


ROB LOWE



NEVER GETS OLD

The *Unstable* actor talks about the joys of working with his son, being 33 years sober and his transition from hunky romantic lead to funny father.

BY MARA REINSTEIN

Flash forward to March 17, 2024. It's a Sunday and two days before the start of spring. It's also the date that Rob Lowe—wait, could this be?!—turns 60.

Now imagine how he feels.

"It's funny," he says. "I remember I couldn't get my head around 40. It was so super-troubling. And I look back on it and think I was a kid. For 50, there was a sense of satisfaction. Like, that's right mother-effers! But 60 does not feel that way. Like, I think I'm going to get through it on the q.t." However, he adds quickly, "I don't think my wife will let me get away with it."

Nor should she. After all, the actor has achieved a life well worth celebrating many times over. How about some white-hot buzz, a chiseled cover-boy visage, movie stardom and pop-culture notoriety? That was Lowe just *in his twenties*. (Oh, the many hearts he melted in the 1985 Gen-X classic *St. Elmo's Fire*.) In the '90s, Lowe emerged from the Brat Pack era as an unlikely comedy player thanks to *Wayne's World*, *Tommy Boy* and the *Austin Powers* films. And for the past two decades, he's been a go-to TV star with hits ranging from *The West Wing* to *Parks and Recreation* to the current Fox drama *9-1-1: Lone Star*.

Along the way, he settled down. Lowe got sober in 1990. He wed makeup artist Sheryl Berkoff in 1991 after meeting on a blind date and reconnecting years later. The couple are parents to Matthew, 29, and John Owen, 27, and raised them in Santa Barbara, California. "I wanted my kids to grow up outside L.A. where there are teachers and doctors and plumbers and architects," he says. "It's not just centered on entertainment, which I think gives a good perspective."

His new Netflix comedy series, *Unstable*, is certainly the icing on the (birthday) cake. It follows a wildly wealthy, mildly unhinged biotech honcho who convinces his introverted son, Jackson, to go to work for him and help save the company from disaster. Lowe is the eccentric mogul; his son John Owen is the sensible savior. The breezy show (premiering on March 30) was inspired by the pair's social media relationship, as the younger Lowe often publicly pokes fun at his dad.

"John Owen came to me and said, 'There's something to be done with this because people enjoy it so much,'" says Lowe, who created and co-executive produces the show with his son. "We spent months trying to figure out the concept. We didn't want to do a reality show. So, we finally came up with this world and these characters. I like that it's a comedy that makes you forget your troubles. You can just laugh."

Lowe also has a great sense of humor and insight when it comes to his Hollywood odyssey. On a Friday morning in February, he shared all with *Parade*.

continued on page 10

COVER AND FEATURE OPENER BY JONNY MARLOW/NETFLIX

from page 9

You and John Owen collaborate on- and off-screen for *Unstable*. What's your professional dynamic like? The father side of me is just so happy and satisfied and I think anyone whose son goes into the family business would understand that. The other side of it is having a partner who sees things almost exactly like I do who I trust implicitly. That's such a gift and a relief. Whether it's a joke or an idea, I know that if John Owen has approved it, I'm going to like it. If he doesn't like it, I'm going to hate it even more than he does.

Your character, Ellis Dragon, is blissfully narcissistic. Is that true to life? I'm not playing an exaggerated version of myself, but every element of Ellis is an element of me. He's based on me, and Jackson is based on John Owen. Obviously you want to find your foibles and put them on steroids. And hopefully that's what makes the show funny.

You really do have an amusing self-awareness, even in commercials. When did you decide to embrace the Rob Lowe of it all? I don't know if I would put it that way. I was lucky to know Cary Grant and spend quality time with Paul Newman. I'm a longtime friend of Arnold Schwarzenegger and friendly with Tom Hanks. They all have one thing in common, and that's that they wear it well. You're f—king Tom Hanks, so enjoy being Tom Hanks! All these guys get the joke. And I don't think anybody would describe those people as pretentious. So, I'm emulating the people I admire.

But you were also saddled with the Brat Pack label in the 1980s. Many of your peers never got past it. That's for sure.

How and why did you? You know, I've been sober for almost 33 years. To do that and succeed at it, you have to do a lot of personal assessment. It gives you a perspective. For someone who can't get over the fact that they were in the Brat Pack, it's like, I want to go, "Bro, it's not like you were a POW in Hanoi." How cool is it that we're even still talking about it?! But it's easy for me to say because I've had literally multiple careers post-Brat Pack. If it's the only thing I was known for, maybe I'd feel differently. But I'm not sure.

Growing up in Ohio, did you think you'd have a Hollywood career? It was an absolute certainty. I was blessed with ignorance, and I knew I wanted to be an actor from the time I was eight years old. I was a freak among my friends. When I was 11, I took a portable Panasonic tape recorder and snuck it into the movie theater so I could record *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and study Jack Nicholson's performance. It never occurred to me that Dayton, Ohio, wasn't this hotbed for producing famous actors.

In *Unstable*, Lowe plays Ellis Dragon, dad to Jackson Dragon, played by his own son John Owen Lowe.

JOHN P. FLEENOR/NETFLIX

Lowe has been married to Sheryl Berkoff since 1991. They share sons John Owen (27) and Matthew Edward (29).

JASON LAVERIS/FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES

After your family uprooted to Malibu in the 1970s, you befriended a young Charlie Sheen and Sean Penn. Were you all insanely competitive trying to land roles? Well, none of those guys had any interest in being actors. Charlie wanted to be a baseball player. I was the one pounding the pavement, and I wasn't a second-generation actor. Then they all decided to do it. I'd say it was a beautiful mix of camaraderie and competitiveness. I see that with my son with the younger generation of actors. In the beginning before you're on your own trajectory, it's anybody's ball game. I miss those days.

What's your opinion on the recent "nepo baby" controversy? Do kids of famous actors and actresses have an unfair advantage? I find it to be fake news. People have been going into the family business for as long as I can remember. Should we not enjoy the work of Jeff Bridges because he's Lloyd Bridges' son? What about Michael Douglas? I truly don't understand it.

OK, but don't you deserve a little more kudos because you succeeded on your own? I mean, sure. I like that I didn't even know what an agent was. But LeBron James' son isn't going anywhere unless he can put the ball in the hoop. I didn't have doors open for me, and some of my peers did and certainly John Owen did. But at the end of the day, if you can't deliver, it's over.

Did you enjoy the height of your fame? I'm really glad I was famous during that time because I'd take no joy in it today. There was more freedom. But with the work that goes into being sober, I've come to terms with how uncomfortable it was and how I was unable to process it and how it affected me. Underneath all that fun and adulation and being the "It Guy" for a while, something about it made me super-uncomfortable and I could never put my finger on it. That's why I always have a lot of empathy for the new guy in town.

You were still an It Guy when you infamously sang with Snow White at the 1989 Oscars. How do you feel about that night in 2023? I'm proud to be on the list of Oscar embarrassments. It will be really interesting to see if I'm still in the conversation this year—by the way, I am every year—when people can't figure out how to properly read an envelope with Best Picture on it or when people are beating the sh-- out of each other in front of billions of people. If they're still talking about my songs, we have big problems with the culture. But I love it. I have no regrets.

continued on page 12

from page 11

Really? Or do you believe everything happens for a reason? Maybe it's because I'm fortunate enough to be in such a place of gratitude right now in my life, but I think all the good and bad things we do lead us to where we are today. I turned down *Grey's Anatomy* [in 2004] to do a show called *Dr. Vegas*. I laugh about it now, but *Grey's* is still on television! So I wouldn't have been able to do *Parks and Recreation* and *Lone Star*. Though would I have liked the money? Hell, yes!

But doesn't it hurt when a TV show fails to get out of the gate? It can. I did a show called *The Grinder* [on Fox in 2015] that was the best comedy I've been in, period. And I was in *Austin Powers*! But for whatever reason, *The Grinder* didn't catch on with anyone except for smarty-pants comedy-industry people. It made me realize that I'm never going to do a network comedy again. I couldn't have done it any better. That's why I'm doing *Unstable* on Netflix.

Honestly, do you think your looks have held you back in some way? Listen. When I was younger, I was told I couldn't play a policeman. Why not? Because "Policemen don't look like you." And on and on. But it's like that with everybody. If producers and directors are unimaginative, everyone is limited. Oh, you're bald so you can't play a romantic lead. For me, it was, "You're too pretty."

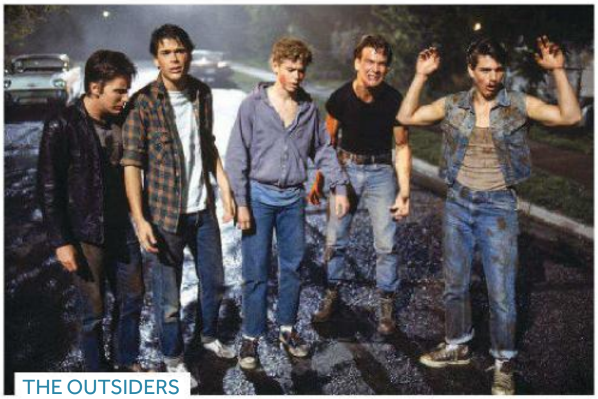
Is that why you initially transitioned to television? Your roles have stretched beyond the hunky romantic lead. I give a lot of that credit to [creator and writer] Aaron Sorkin and *The West Wing*. The Sam Seaborn character was written as a wonderful, sweet, big-hearted, puppy dog intellectual nerd. But he and the producers were like, "He's the best guy to do it." They didn't care what I looked like.

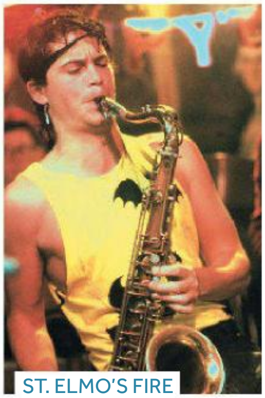
Is that the best work you've ever done? I loved *The West Wing* and *Parks and Recreation*. I'm partial to the character actor department, whether it's *Behind the Candelabra* [in 2013] or Eddie Nero on *Californication* [2007-14]. I love the diversity, and, frankly, those roles are not something I would have guessed I'd be doing back in my "ingenue days."

At this point, what motivates you to keep plugging away at your job? I think it's my Midwestern values. My dad is 80-plus years old and still practicing law. My grandpa worked his whole life. And as actors age, they're able to play different

ROLE

It all began with Lowe playing Sodapop Curtis in *The Outsiders* (1983) at 19. He costarred with fellow Brat Packer **Demi Moore** in both *St. Elmo's Fire* (1985) and *About Last Night* (1986). At 31, Lowe was Emmy-nominated for his role as Sam Seaborn on *The West Wing* (1999-2003). He's had memorable film (*Wayne's World*, *Tommy Boy*) and TV roles, including Robert McCallister on *Brothers & Sisters* (2006-2010), Eddie Nero in *Californication* (2007-2014), Chris Traeger in *Parks and Recreation* (2010-2015), Dean Sanderson in *The Grinder* (2015-2016) and Owen Strand in *9-1-1: Lone Star* (2020-2023).


THE OUTSIDERS


ST. ELMO'S FIRE

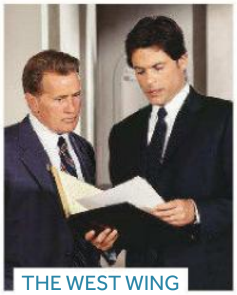
ABOUT LAST NIGHT

WAYNE'S WORLD

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SUNSET BOULEVARD/CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES; CINEMATIC COLLECTION/ALAMY; MOVIESTORE COLLECTION LTD/ALAMY; ALLSTAR PICTURE LIBRARY LTD/ALAMY

CALL

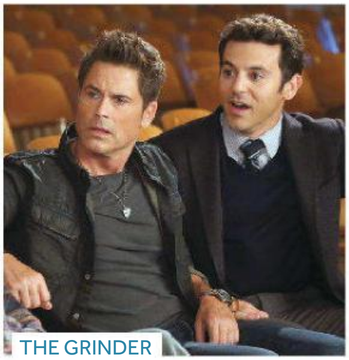
TOMMY BOY

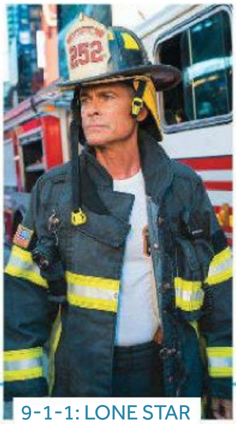

THE WEST WING

BROTHERS AND SISTERS

CALIFORNICATION

PARKS AND RECREATION


THE GRINDER


9-1-1: LONE STAR

kinds of roles. I had a wonderful dinner with Michael Caine a few years ago and I told him how much I envy what he's doing in his career. Like, how do you do it? He said, "Just keep doing what you're doing and you'll end up being 'That Guy.'" He can play things he couldn't when he was Alfie. Bruce Springsteen once said, "When I started out it was all sunrises and hellos; now it's sunsets and goodbyes." There's value in that. That's why I stay.

How do you attribute the fact that John Owen is in your business and Matthew works in finance? Well, I tried to keep both out of the circus and I was only half-successful. Matthew is loving his life in finance and puts together tons of interesting deals and travels the world. I live vicariously. It's great to have yin and yangs as sons. As long as they're following their passions, that's all I care about.

What do you and Sheryl like to do together? Binge-watch TV on the couch? I'm sort of serious when I say that's a big bone of contention. She loves to consume entertainment. I'm in a phase where there's no story turn or plot that I haven't already seen or played myself. It must be executed in a way that's fresh. I am watching *The Last of Us* on HBO. It's done in surprising, deft, smart and unexpected ways. I love *Yellowstone*, too.

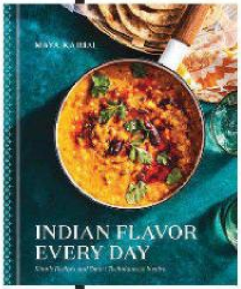
Did you watch your old *Outsiders* pal Tom Cruise in *Top Gun: Maverick*? Oh, yeah! That guy still knows how to make movies. I couldn't be a bigger fan. We love each other and had a great phone call recently. All those guys from that era, whenever we see each other, we just giggle and hug and are so happy. It's like running into a college roommate.

Well, you're all survivors in a lot of ways. I know I am. And that's the thing I take the most satisfaction in—I don't get to be here without people being on that journey with me. I see them every day on the streets and on my travels. There are 14-year-olds who have just discovered *The Outsiders* in school and 80-year-olds who remember seeing it in theaters in 1983. It all still blows my mind, and I still can't believe it all happened. P

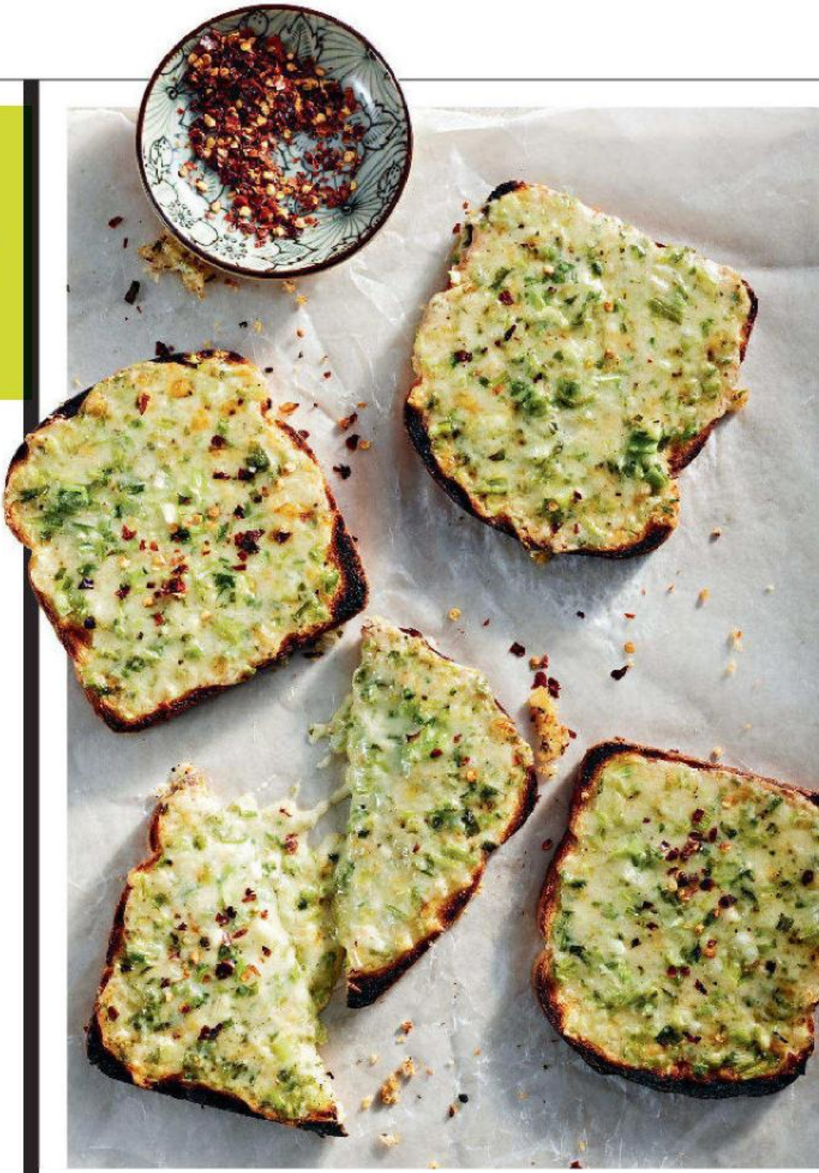
How much does Rob Lowe love surfing?
Go to **Parade.com/rob-lowe** to find out.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CBS VIA GETTY IMAGES; NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES; JORDIN ALTHAUS/SHOWTIME/ALAMY; COLLEEN HAYES/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES; FOX VIA GETTY IMAGES; FOX IMAGE COLLECTION VIA GETTY IMAGES; CRAIG SJODIN/DISNEY VIA GETTY IMAGES

BIG-FLAVOR INDIAN FOOD AT HOME



These two recipes—one a quick snack, the other a succulent braise—bring authentic Indian flavors into your kitchen. They're from the new cookbook ***Indian Flavor Every Day*** by Maya Kaimal. If Kaimal's name is familiar, she's also the founder of the Maya Kaimal line of Indian simmer sauces, soups, condiments and shelf-stable heat-and-eat meals that are available in many supermarkets. BY ALISON ASHTON



CHILI CHEESE TOAST

"This spiced-up cheese toastie is inspired by a massively popular snack in India of the same name that is pure, decadent deliciousness," says Kaimal. Vegan butter and cheese also work well here if you prefer a plant-based version.

Preheat broiler; set the top rack 4-5 inches below heat.

In a medium bowl, combine 2 generous cups grated **white cheddar cheese**; 2-3 tsp finely chopped **serrano or jalapeño chiles**; 3 **green onions** (white and green parts), finely chopped (about ⅓ cup); and a few grinds of **black pepper**. Mix well.

In a small bowl, combine 2 Tbsp **salted butter**, at room temperature, and 1 large clove **garlic**, finely minced (about 2 tsp). Spread half of garlic butter equally over 1 side of each of 4 (4-inch-square) slices **sandwich bread**. Place bread slices on a baking sheet, buttered-side up; broil 2 minutes or until golden.

Remove from oven; set baking sheet on a heatproof surface. Carefully flip bread and spread remaining garlic butter on the other side. Divide cheese mixture equally among buttered slices, gently pressing it into bread. Broil 2 minutes or until cheese is bubbly. Remove from oven, cut each slice diagonally; sprinkle liberally with **red pepper flakes**. Serve immediately. **Serves 4.**

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Go to ***Parade.com/indian-beans*** for an Indian-style green bean recipe.

CLASSIC PORK VINDALOO

"This Portuguese-Goan favorite is famously full of heat and tang plus umami richness so that everything is in balance and the fire is never out of control," says Kaimal. Gently braising the pork ensures the meat is tender and the flavors are intense.

Trim fat off 2½-3 lb **boneless pork shoulder or butt.** Cut pork into 1½-inch chunks.

In a large nonreactive bowl, combine 8 tsp **ground coriander**, 2 tsp **ground cumin**, ½ tsp **cayenne**, ½ tsp freshly ground **black pepper**, ¼ tsp **ground turmeric**, ⅛ tsp **ground cinnamon**, ⅛ tsp **ground cloves** and ⅓ cup **white vinegar**. Add pork, mixing to coat. Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours and up to 24 hours.

Partially crush ½ tsp **brown or black mustard seeds** (such as Rani Brand or Morton and Bassett) in a mortar and pestle or electric spice grinder until they appear half brown, half yellow; set aside. In a small bowl, dilute 1 tsp **tamarind paste or concentrate** (such as Neera's) in 2 Tbsp warm water; set aside.

Heat 1 Tbsp **neutral oil** in a Dutch oven or a deep 11- to 12-inch skillet over medium-high. When oil shimmers, add pork pieces, reserving marinade liquid. Cook, stirring every few minutes, 5-8 minutes or until lightly colored on all sides. Transfer pork to a plate.

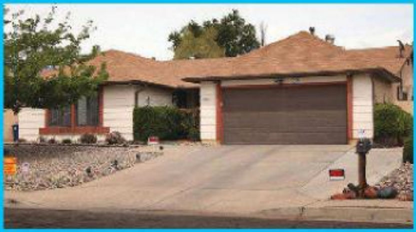
In the same pan, heat 3 Tbsp neutral oil over medium-high. Sauté 1 **large yellow onion**, thinly sliced (2 generous cups), 7-10 minutes or until deep golden. Add 2 tsp minced garlic, 2 tsp minced **ginger** and 2-3 **green chiles** (such as serrano or jalapeño), split lengthwise, with tops intact. Sauté 1 minute, until fragrant. Add crushed mustard seed; 1 **large tomato**, chopped (1½ cups); 1 tsp fine **sea salt** and diluted tamarind. Continue to sauté 2-3 minutes or until tomato has softened.

Return pork along with reserved marinade to pan and stir well. It may look like it needs water, but the meat will release liquid as it cooks. When the sauce comes to a boil, reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer gently 1 hour, at which point you will start checking it to see if the meat is fully cooked. Don't be surprised if it takes another 30 minutes, or possibly even longer, to become fork-tender.

When pork is completely tender, increase heat to medium. Stir in ½ cup **full-fat canned coconut milk**; gently simmer 15 minutes or until sauce is thick and dark. If it looks dry add a little water. Remove from the heat and transfer to a warmed serving bowl. Garnish with ¼ cup coarsely chopped **cilantro leaves and tender stems. Serves 6.**

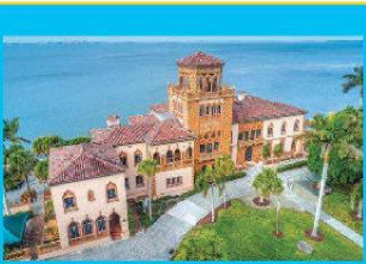
CAN YOU NAME IT?

This "Famous Houses" edition of our Can You Name It? quiz series takes you on a road trip across America. Answers on p. 18.



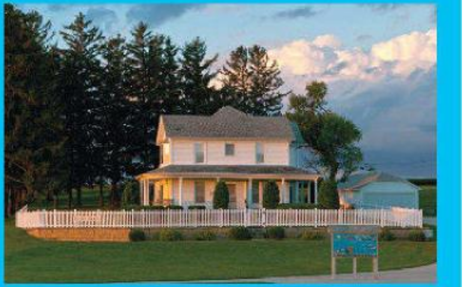
1. This privately owned home was the victim of drive-by pizza-tosses after appearing in a scene where a pizza landed on the roof in what popular TV show?

A. *This Is Us*
B. *The Brady Bunch*
C. *Breaking Bad*



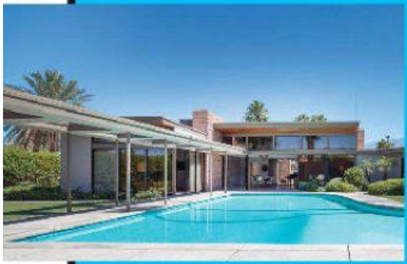
2. This house was built by the 13th-richest man in America in 1924. What is the name of the house, which is now a tourist attraction?

A. The Hearst Castle
B. Ca' d'Zan
C. Xanadu



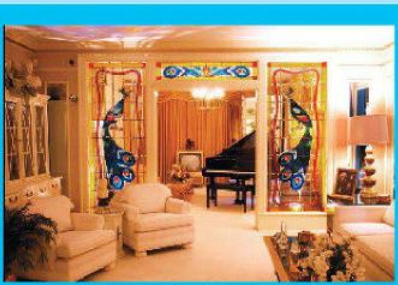
3. Baseball lovers can spend the night in this house featured in which popular film?

A. *Bull Durham*
B. *Field of Dreams*
C. *Major League*



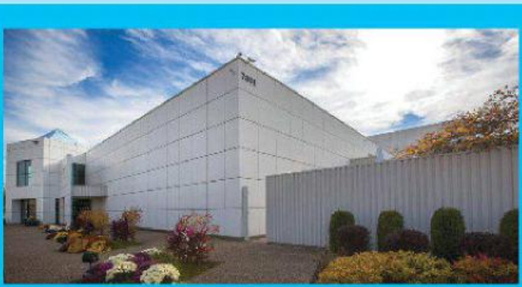
4. Which famous singer threw many a cocktail party at this California estate?

A. Dean Martin
B. Bing Crosby
C. Frank Sinatra



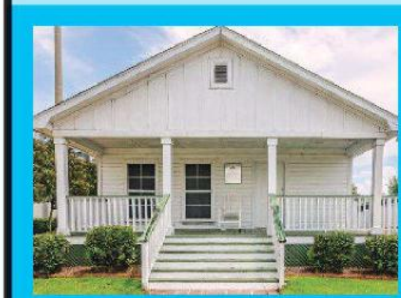
5. This home is famous for its shag carpet and purple drapes. To whom did it belong?

A. Liberace
B. Elvis
C. Prince

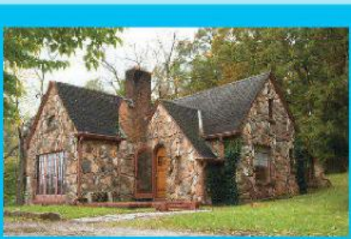


6. You can view more than 300 pairs of this famous singer's shoes and boots in this wild mansion.

A. Elvis
B. Cher
C. Prince

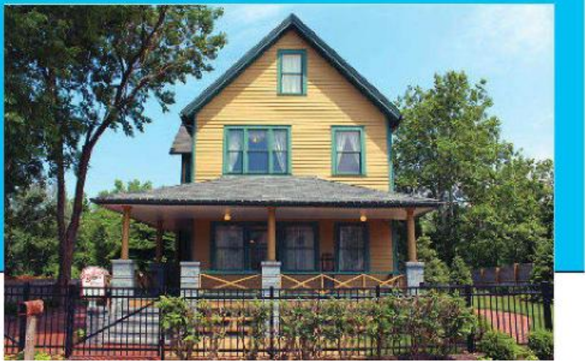


7. This baseball legend lived here.
A. Hank Aaron
B. Babe Ruth
C. Jackie Robinson



8. Which children's book author wrote some unforgettable literature in this home?
A. Laura Ingalls Wilder
B. E.B. White
C. Judy Blume

9. A popular movie classic come December, this film's fans flock to see the place where the magic happened.
A. *White Christmas*
B. *A Christmas Story*
C. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*



Go to ***Parade.com/historic-house*** to tour these homes.

FROM TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: STEPHEN R. JOHNSON/ALAMY; THE JOHN AND MABLE RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART; BILL BACHMANN/ALAMY; ALPHA STOCK/ALAMY; DAVID LEFRANC/GAMMA-RAPHO VIA GETTY IMAGES; ZUMA PRESS INC/ALAMY; CARMEN K. SISSON/CLOUDYBRIGHT/ALAMY; DONNA IKENBERRY/ART DIRECTORS/ALAMY; A CHRISTMAS STORY HOUSE

Ask Marilyn

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

Send questions to
marilyn@parade.com

Numbrix®

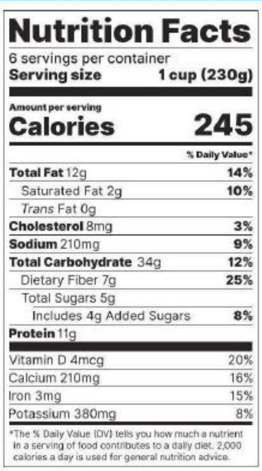
Complete 1 to 81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path—no diagonals.

63				77				3
	65						1	
		71			7			
57								11
		41			19			
	33						17	
35			25					15

For more Numbrix puzzles, go to ***Parade.com/numbrix***.

Food packaging typically shows the number of calories per serving. How is this information determined? And if it's reported by the manufacturer, how can we trust it?

—Al Saikkonen,
The Villages, Florida



Nutrition Facts

6 servings per container

Serving size	**1 cup (230g)**
Amount per serving	
Calories	**245**
	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 12g	**14%**
Saturated Fat 2g	**10%**
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 8mg	**3%**
Sodium 210mg	**9%**
Total Carbohydrate 34g	**12%**
Dietary Fiber 7g	**25%**
Total Sugars 5g	
Includes 4g Added Sugars	**8%**
Protein 11g	
Vitamin D 4mcg	20%
Calcium 210mg	16%
Iron 3mg	15%
Potassium 380mg	8%

*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

Contrary to one common belief, a calorie is not a measure of nutrient density. It's a unit of energy. The calories listed on a food package refer to the amount of energy required to raise the temperature of water by a certain degree. So it's not surprising that the first popular way to measure calories was to place the food in a sealed container surrounded by water and then burn the food to see how much the water temperature rose. That kind of apparatus is called a bomb calorimeter. (By the way, it's called a "bomb" calorimeter because ignition of the food causes a reaction that resembles a mini-explosion.)

Today, many manufacturers use some version of the Atwater method to estimate the information. Named after its developer, Wilbur Atwater, the basic technique averages the calories in food groups by weight: Protein and carbohydrates have about four calories per gram, and fat has nine. (Alcohol has about seven calories per gram.) So if a serving of a food contains five grams of protein, five of carbohydrate and five grams of fat, each serving contains 85 (5x4 plus 5x4 plus 5x9 equals 85) calories. The system isn't perfect, but calorimeter measurements have drawbacks too. It's more complicated than it may seem on the surface. This is why the FDA, which regulates food labels, allows a margin of error of 20 percent.

Also, determining the number of calories for a food label that applies to everyone may be impossible for additional reasons, such as the fact that different bodies metabolize food somewhat differently. Factors such as age, health and lifestyle are involved. In my opinion, the labels are quite useful, but they should be only one factor in deciding what foods to purchase.

CLASSIC ASK MARILYN

THE GIRL-BOY ODDS QUESTION

JUNE 3, 2007

Please settle a question for my fiancé and me. I think that a couple has the same chance of having four boys or four girls as having two of each. He thinks the couple has a greater chance of having two of each. Who is right?

—Dena Jennell, Chicago, Illinois

Find solutions to Marilyn's puzzles and this week's Numbrix on the next page!

ISTOCK

Ask Marilyn

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

SOLUTIONS

THE GIRL-BOY ODDS QUESTION

Who is right? The fiancé is correct that the couple planning for four children has a greater chance of having two of each gender. Marilyn explains: The chances are 1 out of 8 that all of the children will be the same sex. But the chances are 3 out of 9 that they will be two boys and two girls. Even so, readers may be surprised to learn that the laws of chance and probability indicate that four children are more likely to be three of one sex and one of another (4 chances out of 8 or 50 percent) than either of the combinations mentioned.

4 BOYS OR 4 GIRLS = 1:8 ODDS
2 BOYS + 2 GIRLS = 3:8 ODDS
3 BOYS + 1 GIRL OR 3 GIRLS + 1 BOY = 4:8 ODDS

Numbrix®

March 26, 2023

63	64	67	68	77	78	5	4	3
62	65	66	69	76	79	6	1	2
61	60	71	70	75	80	7	8	9
58	59	72	73	74	81	50	49	10
57	56	55	54	53	52	51	48	11
38	39	42	43	44	45	46	47	12
37	40	41	28	27	20	19	18	13
36	33	32	29	26	21	22	17	14
35	34	31	30	25	24	23	16	15

CAN YOU NAME IT? FROM P. 16

1. **C. *BREAKING BAD*** The real homeowners at this New Mexico abode (used as the exterior for Walter White's home in the TV show) had to build a fence around it to prevent *Breaking Bad* fans from tossing pizza onto the roof. It was in episode two of season three, called "Caballo sin Nombre," ("A Horse With No Name"), which aired on March 28th, 2010, when an irate White tosses a pepperoni pizza on the roof of his house.

2. **B. *CA' D'ZAN*** The 13th-richest man in America was none other than John Ringling of circus fame. In fact, Ca' d'Zan means "Hour of John" in Venetian dialect. The 36,000-square-foot home, which is open for tours, is part of the Ringling property in Sarasota, Fla. It took two years to build and houses a custom-made 2,000-plus pipe organ and features Moorish, Venetian Gothic and Italian Renaissance influences. ***ringling.org***

3. **B. *FIELD OF DREAMS*** Head to Dyersville, Iowa, to tour or even spend the night in the beautiful *Field of Dreams* house, featured in the 1989 baseball movie starring Kevin Costner. Visitors can run the bases, walk into the corn field, book an overnight stay or just sit on the porch swing and quote famous lines from the movie ("If you build it…"). ***fieldofdreamsmoviesite.com***

4. **C. *FRANK SINATRA*** You can "do it your way" at the Twin Palms Sinatra Estate—playing the grand piano in the singer's living room or jumping into the piano-shaped pool. The famous crooner had the California house built in 1947. Rent starts at $3,000 a night. ***sinatrahouse.com***

5. **B. *ELVIS*** Yes, this is Graceland in Memphis, Tenn., where you can visit Elvis Presley's grave and tour his shag-carpeted home and an 80,000-square-foot exhibition space full of gold records, bejeweled jumpsuits and a pink Cadillac. ***graceland.com***

6. **C. *PRINCE*** At Paisley Park in Chanhassen, Minn., just outside of Minneapolis, you can view hundreds of Prince costumes (such as his ruffled shirt and long purple coat from the 1984 film *Purple Rain*) and check out his footwear collection, including the blue ankle boots with hand-painted white clouds he wore in the "Raspberry Beret" video. ***paisleypark.com***

7. **A. *HANK AARON*** In 1942, "Hammerin'" Hank's father built a small home for his growing family from scrap wood and nails salvaged from his job at the docks. The baseball legend lived there from ages 8 to 17, when he left home to play ball for the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro American League. The house was moved from its original site in Toulminville, Ala., to the grounds of the Hank Aaron Stadium in downtown Mobile, Ala., in 2008. ***Call for hours: 251-572-2327***

8. **A. *LAURA INGALLS WILDER*** The author of the beloved *Little House on the Prairie* books moved to Rocky Ridge in Mansfield, Mo., in 1894 and lived there off and on until her death in 1957. A tour of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home & Museum shows how personal it was to Ingalls—the rocks for the fireplace came from the property, her pa's fiddle is on view and it's in the little adjacent stone cottage that she penned her first four *Little House* books. ***lauraingallswilderhome.com***

9. **B. *A CHRISTMAS STORY*** If you've dreamed of picking up Ralphie's Red Ryder BB gun and pretending to shoot your eye out, plan a visit to the A Christmas Story House & Museum in Cleveland, Ohio. Don't miss the famous leg lamp! ***achristmasstoryhouse.com***

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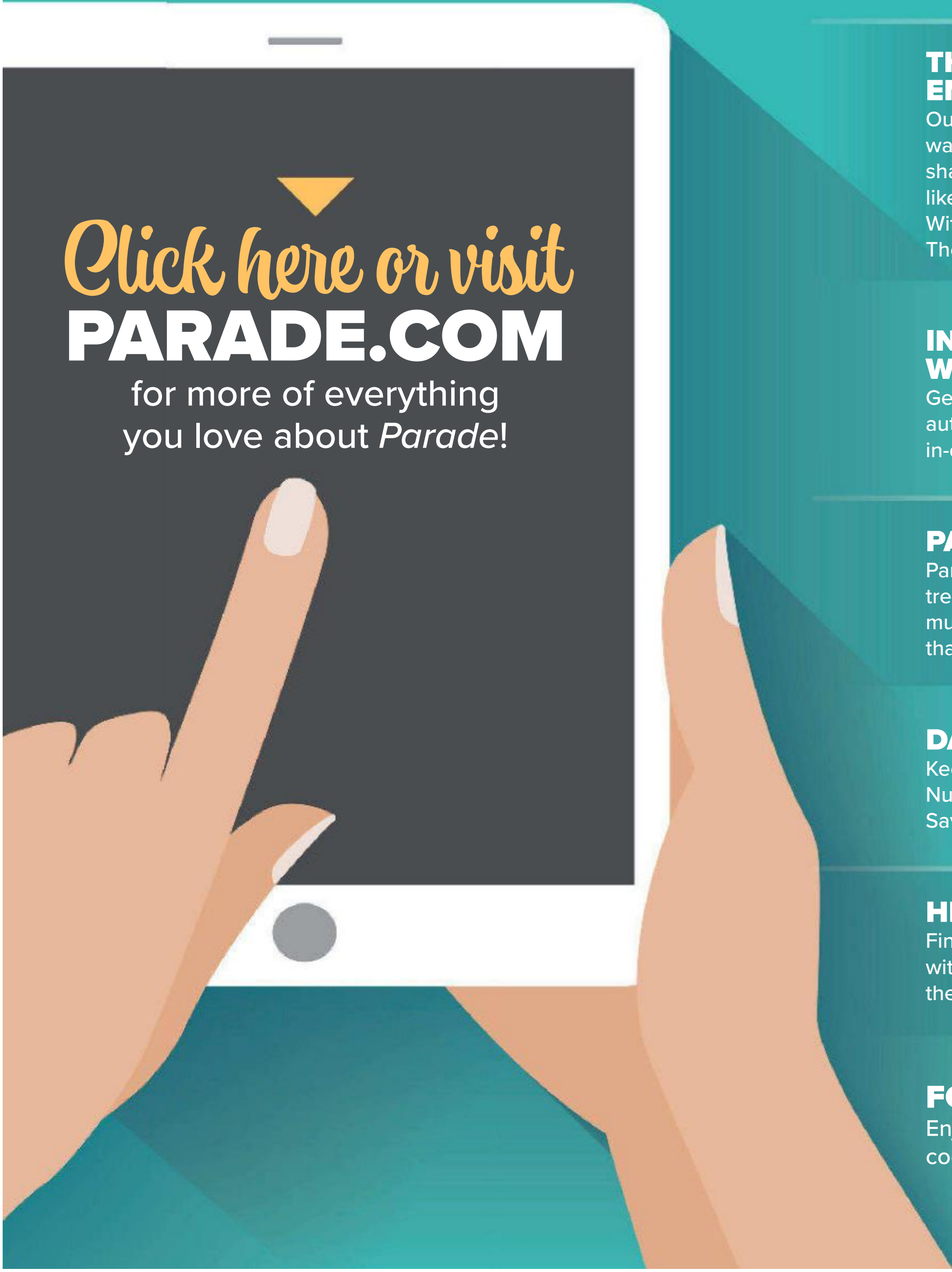

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